After restrictions on public gatherings, led to the cancellation of the ARC2020 Making It Real conference scheduled for April 21-24, WSCUC’s leaders promised to provide other opportunities for the WSCUC community “to stay connected and learn together.”

The first of these events was a virtual State of the Community meeting held on April 24th. At that time, President Jamienne S. Studley addressed the membership and provided an update on the commission’s activities. In her highly informative message which is posted on the WSCUC website (https://wascsenior.app.box.com/s/g9n1xeotszv4go6rq678hw9rmsgnubia) President Studley focused on the following:

- Acknowledged the extraordinary challenges faced by institutions of higher education and conveyed the Commission’s appreciation for the “heroic” efforts of faculty and administrators and their tireless work in service to students.
- Announced that the Commission will meet in June as scheduled but virtually.
- Reported on the status of the 32 campus visits scheduled for spring 2020:
  - Thirteen were completed before shelter in place.
  - Nine visits are being held virtually.
  - Ten visits have been rescheduled for late summer.
- Announced several decisions intended to provide more flexibility and better service to WSCUC member institutions:
  - Annual reporting has been extended an extra month to June 30th.
  - GRD information is optional, as long as institutions retain the data in case it is needed at a later date.
  - Volunteers will be asked to update their expertise forms starting in May.
- Acknowledged that institutions have many questions about remote and on-line program delivery, particularly regarding how they can plan for remote offerings in the fall term or beyond.
- Announced that WSCUC, has joined the other members of the Council on Regional Accrediting Commission (CRAC) in submitting a letter to the Secretary of Education urging the Department of Education to extend current guidance related to distance education review requirements through the academic year 2020-2021.
- Reassured institutions that in these challenging times, WSCUC will seek ways to share resources among institutions, and to combine flexibility with continued attention to education quality.
- Indicated that WSCUC is paying particular to protections for students in the event of increased closure of colleges and programs, including teach out arrangements and preservation of student transcripts.

- Finally, WSCUC is producing additional education sessions, including one on data and assessment (Adaptation & Innovation) on May 14, and programming for Accreditation Liaison Officers later in May.