

Dear Students,

By now you are aware that Rocky Mountain College has made the difficult decision to move the fall start date from September 9 to August 31, 2020. This action was not taken lightly and was done with carefully considered input from Yellowstone County Health professionals, guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), current best practices in Higher Education and feedback from faculty, students and staff.

By beginning our term one week earlier, we can significantly reduce student travel to and from the College. As you likely know, travel correlates with a higher incidence of exposure to a variety of viruses, viruses that can potentially be returned to an otherwise healthy population. By completing face-to-face instruction on November 25, 2020, we can more effectively limit student exposure, reduce the transmission of viruses and improve our chances of completing the semester with face-to-face instruction.

Our new calendar will be as follows:

<b>Friday, August 28</b>	New Student Move-in Day
<b>Friday, August 28</b>	New Student Orientation Begins
<b>Monday, August 31</b>	Classes Begin
<b>Wednesday, November 25</b>	Last Day of Face-to-face Classes
<b>November 30 - December 7</b>	Finals (virtual /digital submission)

**\*NOTE: with the modified calendar we will not be observing Labor Day as an off day and fall break has been eliminated.**

The College is aware that for some students this change represents a significant burden. We are prepared to support your transition as you make adjustments to the new start date. The student life team and academic administration are eager to aid anyone in need and, as always, you can reach out directly to me for help.

If you have not yet had an opportunity to review President Wilmouth's video message, here is the link: <https://youtu.be/12u6FiMCeq4>

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can help you accommodate the new dates or be of other assistance this summer. We are eagerly anticipating your return in the fall. In the meantime, please enjoy a safe and peaceful summer.

Respectfully,

Brad Nason  
Executive Vice President  
Dean of Students