

From: [McCormick, Adrienne](#)
To: [Faculty Conference](#)
Subject: Friday Features: Election Day and Success Reminders
Date: Friday, October 16, 2020 10:42:14 AM
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Hello All,

As we approach the final weeks of the Presidential Election, I want to remind everyone of the schedule surrounding Election Day: Tuesday, November 3. In accordance with our approved Fall 2020 schedule, no classes will be held on Election Day. Please [click here to review all important dates for Fall 2020](#) on the Registrar's website.

For information on how to vote in the election, check out this handy link from Democracy Now: <https://howto.vote/vote/en/sc.html>. It includes a sample ballot so you can see who is running at each level in your district.

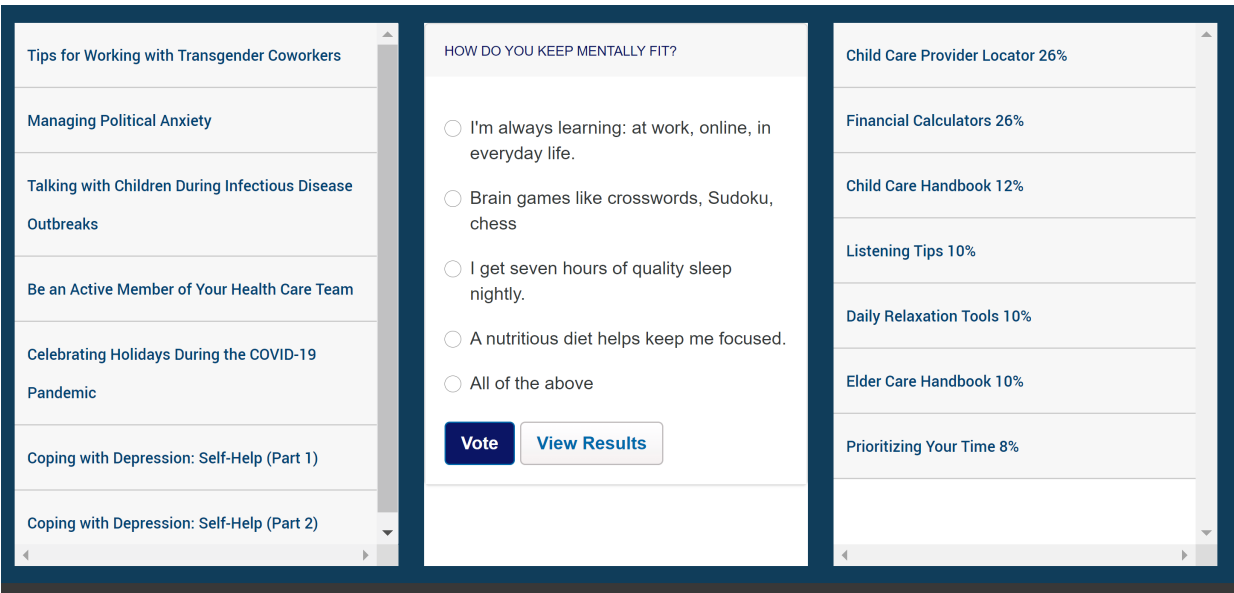
Final steps in preparing the Spring 2021 course schedule are underway. As you start looking to Spring 2021, I encourage you all to consider what has worked well for you and your students this Fall and what has not. We have a strong reflective practice at Winthrop. This year has taken the need for this reflection to new levels. I am working with the Deans to identify ways we can gather your success stories and share them with your colleagues to scale them for others. Also, please remember that the Center for Professional Excellence launched a Virtual Academy for faculty, curating key resources to support you in this time of mixed modality instruction and remote work. Take a moment to check it out and see what might be useful for you: <https://www.winthrop.edu/thecepe/virtual-academy.aspx>. Here is a snip of some recently added content:

Recently Added On-Demand Webinars

 <p>Friday 5 Live! Supporting Student Mental Health Needs: In Person & At A Distance 45 minutes</p>	 <p>Teaching More By Grading Less: Creating Meaningful Assessments That Align With Learning Objectives 60 minutes</p>	 <p>Online Group Advising: Emphasizing Effectiveness & Efficiency In The Age Of COVID-19 90 minutes</p>	 <p>Online Foreign Language Courses: How To Assess Oral & Written Competencies 60 minutes</p>
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We have seen a concerning increase in the numbers of students you have referred to the [Academic Success Center](#) as academically vulnerable. As advising activities begin, please give special attention in your advising conversations to our first- and second-year students, for whom college learning itself is still new and has never been "normal." Navigating significant online responsibilities and managing their own time have been key factors impacting student success. Please encourage them to reach out to you, our Student Services Offices, the Academic Success Center, and/or Health and Counseling Services through our [patient portal](#) if they find themselves struggling. Sometimes a simple bit of encouragement can help a student take the first step in seeking the support they need.

I know faculty and academic support staff need encouragement too. Let me applaud you for your ongoing stamina and creativity, and for showing up for our students even while navigating a very stressful time in our nation. I want to share again how excited I am that our [Faculty Manual](#) has been updated for the first time since 2015-2016. We continue the work of updating the material behind the links, but the current updates are a significant improvement in wayfinding for key policies and procedures. Many thanks to all who helped bring this important work forward. Also, please remember that there are several resources available to you through our [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#). Please follow the login instructions for mygroup.com available through the EAP link, which will take you to online counseling resources and a wealth of other materials. Here is a snip showing some of the resources available through our work with McLaughlin Young Group:



As I work on the 2019-2020 Academic Affairs annual report, I am constantly humbled by your accomplishments last year, despite the massive challenges you all faced. I reviewed a Faculty 180 report yesterday of all faculty scholarly, creative, and development activity last year. Your accomplishments are deeply impressive! As soon as my report is complete, I will share it widely. Telling the story of your accomplishments – and the student accomplishments you make possible – is a wonderful task.

Have a great weekend,
Adrienne

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