Despite the pandemic, Tolono O’odham Community College is open to students and the community.

By TOCC Staff

Sells, AZ—With classes set to begin on January 18, 2022, Tolono O’odham Community College is preparing for its spring semester. Except for a brief break, classes (December 14-18) TOCC camps are open.

People who are vaccinated are welcome to visit the college. Each campus has a place on-site to show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination and to complete a health screening in order to access the grounds and resources. All individuals on campus must wear a mask.

Here are updates from the various college campuses.

Wing Kay Masquakaw (Hawk’s Nest Campus), which is on Highway 86, Milepost 111.2 South (near the Forest Career Center), offers many services to the community, including the following:

- Pre-College/GED: a year-round program that is only closed on recognized federal and TOCC employee holidays. Four options are available to students interested in earning high school equivalency.

The GED program offers in-person classes that are also available online via Zoom. Contact the GED instructors for how to enroll in the in-person or online option.

Another choice is independent study, which gives students the flexibility of working at their own pace. The GED program provides school supplies and a graduation option.

Another option is the Community College Pathway, in which students can take TOCC for 25 college credits that count toward their high school equivalency. The pre-college GED program provides books to interested community members.

For more information, contact the Pre-college GED program office at 520-478-2292 to speak to Pauline Naamayetea, BCT Advisor, or Amelmo Ramon, Chair of Academic Programs in Workforce & Community Development.

- Agricultural Extension: The Extension Agent and staff continue to work on the extension fields to grow traditional and modern crops. Additionally, when required, they can help with home/community/school gardens and answer learning-related questions. Contact Farm Management Extension Agent Clifford Fakia, cfakia@tocc.edu, or Farm Manager Assistant Joyce Miguel, jmiguel@tocc.edu.

- The G.E.O.-SMART Project holds workshops on vegetation, drone mapping, and other topics for workplace groups and collaboratives with the districts on mapping. Eric Peterson teaches college courses on the Global Positioning System and on Geographic Information System (GIS) online (and face to face when conditions permit). The G.E.O.-SMART Project is introducing a two-course certificate program in GIS.

- Apprenticeships in the construction trades are currently not being offered to new applicants. The program is being restructured and plans are to recruit apprentice candidates in spring 2022. For more information, contact Lutie Linton, Office Coordinator, at 520-995-6457.

- The Cultural Liaison for the College, Ms. Juanita Jones, is based at this campus. She chairs the Hunkah-oo Committee, which serves both the college and the broader community. Jones may be reached at jonesj@tocc.edu.

- Early Childhood Education Program: Community Workforce & Community Development, said, “Throughout the years, the Wing Kay campus has gone through many program changes and name changes, but the focus remains the same: to provide the community a place to learn a trade, to study for the GED certification and to participate in the new programs that offer free workshops in GIS and Agriculture.” Ramon can be reached at 520-478-2212 or amelmo@tocc.edu.

- Early Childhood Education (Black Mountain Campus), which is on Highway 86, Milepost 125.5 North (former called ‘Main Campus’), is the location where most of the college’s classes are offered or administered. Here are some of the services currently or soon to be available.

BUSD 40 campuses will close during winter break

Sells. Campuses in Baboquivari Unified School District 40 will be closed for two weeks for winter break beginning Dec. 20.

The schools will be closed through Friday, Dec. 31, and classes will start on Monday, Jan. 3.

For more information call the BUSD 40 administration office main line at 520-718-1200. You may also call the schools: Indian Oasis Elementary Primary School at 520-719-1230, Indian Oasis Elementary Intermediate School at 520-719-1240, Baboquivari Middle School and High School at 520-719-1250, Indian Oasis Middle School and High School at 520-719-1260.