ONLINE 10/5/20 B. SHEPHERD

This fall at U-W River Falls, faculty are teaching in a variety of formats. From all online, face to face with strict guidelines, and hybrid mode. Brooke Shepherd has the story.

MP3 RUNS: 1:18 O/C: THIS IS BROOKE SHEPHERD

BROOKE SHEPHERD: FACULTY AT U-W RIVER FALLS SPENT THEIR SUMMERS PREPARING FOR A SEMESTER DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. KATHY WELCH IS AN INSTRUCTOR OF STAGE AND SCREEN ARTS. SHE SAYS THERE ARE MANY CHALLENGES TO TEACHING HER FACE TO FACE ACTING CLASS WHILE FOLLOWING SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES.

KATHY WELCH: WE JUST HAVE TO THINK THROUGH EACH ACTIVITY, MAKING SURE THAT PEOPLE AREN’T TOUCHING EACH OTHER, MAKING SURE THAT THEY’RE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE BY SPREADING OUT.

BROOKE SHEPHERD: THROUGH THE CHALLENGES, WELCH SAYS THE MASKS MAY ACTUALLY HELP HER STUDENTS WHILE THEY’RE LEARNING TO PROJECT THEIR VOICES ON STAGE. DAVID ZLESAK (ZLEE-sak) IS A PROFESSOR OF HORTICULTURE. HE SAYS GETTING HIS ONLINE CLASSES READY INVOLVED REFORMATTING HIS ENTIRE CURRICULUM.

DAVID ZLESAK: THE POSITIVE THAT I SEE IS THAT I’M GOING TO HAVE MORE ONLINE RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE SO IF A STUDENT CAN’T MAKE A DAY OR THEY’RE ABSENT, I’LL HAVE THESE RECORDINGS TO GIVE TO THEM AND THEN ALSO FOR STUDENTS I CAN POST THESE AS ANOTHER WAY TO HELP STUDY BEFORE EXAMS.

BROOKE SHEPHERD: ZLESAK DOESN’T THINK THESE METHODS CAN REPLACE IN PERSON CLASS, THOUGH IT WILL BE A GOOD SUPPLEMENT FOR HIS STUDENTS DOWN THE ROAD. FOR FALCON NEWS, THIS IS BROOKE SHEPHERD.

Faculty are pressing forward through the uncertainty. The university could still decide to move all online if the number of positive Covid-19 cases becomes too high.

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