

CSP 2020–2021 Tuition Announced

BY ETHAN LANGEMO

ON OCTOBER 13TH, the Concordia University, St. Paul Board of Regents announced that it approved the tuition for the 2020-2021 academic school year at \$23,900. This new price raises the previous tuition by a slight 2.09%, or \$500. The housing and board for the school year was also approved, increasing it by 3.03% to \$9,900. The overall price will be \$33,800 for traditional undergraduates living on campus. All students will still be paying a few thousand dollars less than they would have had to before the historic 2013 tuition reset. An article from the *StarTribune* revealed that even though students are paying less and taking on less debt, the school has managed to increase its revenue by a whopping 66%. This means that more money is able to go towards financial aid, campus management, and resources for education.

Concordia's competitive low price combined with several opportunities for financial support continue to make it the most affordable private college in Minnesota. All the while, it still maintains the same quality of education a student would get at any overpriced school. CSP Provost and COO Dr. Eric LaMott has stated that the cost of attendance is one of the most important factors that students look for when searching for colleges. This especially applies to students just graduating high school who are hoping to avoid the incredible amounts of student loans like their peers who decide to go to other popular private MN colleges, such as Concordia Moorhead, St. Thomas, or St. Olaf. These are a couple of the great qualities that have helped spurn the surges in enrollment these past few years, though enrollment has been increasing since even before the tuition reset.

The announcement of the coming year's tuition is a testament to the dedication of the institution to its students. Concordia, St. Paul continues to prove that an affordable education really can be as good as an education from other schools which forces the illusion that high quality programs require a high price tag. Some schools are making changes to their tuition due to the pandemic. The University of Minnesota has decided not to raise its tuition, and institutions part of the Minnesota State University system are also considering freezing tuition. Other schools that have gone online due to the pandemic are considering cutting tuition. Some may decide to cut costs to attract students who left when online classes took place of in-person learning. CSP is a leader when it comes to making the price work for students, and hopefully other schools will attain the guts to follow suit.

Amazon Pharmacy: Prescription Drugs Online

BY DAVINA BELLINGER

AMAZON IS ONE OF the biggest online shopping companies making billions of dollars each year. One new online shopping option accessible to Amazon prime members is Amazon Pharmacy. The company will receive discounts from 50,000 different physical pharmacies around the country, some of which include Costco, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart.

Prescription drugs sales through Amazon Pharmacy will reach \$360 billion this year, according to the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid services. With the pandemic still on the rise, Amazon Pharmacy hopes to take advantage of the interest in shopping at home for its Prime members.

For now, Amazon Pharmacy is making itself accessible to all customers, except for the following states: Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, and Minnesota. The company said that it will keep customer sensitive medical information secure. Amazon will also not sell any Schedule II controlled medications such as opioids.

Amazon is building off PillPacks mail-order prescription-drug business to help customers with multiple daily medications for those with chronic conditions. The various other drugs that they also provide for their customers are refrigerated insulin. The company has also added the feature so that its customers can have their doctors send the prescriptions to Amazon Pharmacy.

Economists have looked into the reasons as to why Amazon may become an attraction to customers when they are filling up prescriptions. One of the reasons could be how the online retail may seem more pleasant and competitive with normal retail drug pricings.

Amazon is booming with its new pharmacy, which mostly affects small drug businesses throughout the country. The main companies that are also trending with the pharmacy industry are CVS and Walgreens because of their connections with mailing industries like FedEx and UPS. In addition, they also partner with some of the biggest health insurers in the country like Aetna.

November 15 SpaceX Launch

BY OWEN LIEBERT

AT 7:27 P.M. EST, on Sunday, November 15, 2020, the Crew 1 Dragon spacecraft lifted off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. After a highly successful launch, the crew underwent an eight and a half hour flight to reach their destination on the International Space Station. On board were four astronauts: Commander Michael Hopkins, Pilot Victor Glover, who will be the first black man to take part in an extended mission aboard the ISS, Mission Specialist Shannon Walker, and Veteran Astronaut, Soichi Noguchi, who is a part of JAXA, the Japanese National Aerospace Agency. The crew will be joining NASA astronaut Kate Rubins and Russian astronauts Sergey Ryzhikov and Sergey Kud-Sverchkov, who are already on board the space station. They arrived aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft last month. The crew is set to spend the next six months aboard the station before returning in the same craft they arrived on.

This launch marks a new era for NASA. SpaceX launched NASA astronauts from America on May 30th of this year. But before that mission, they had not launched astronauts to the International Space Station from American soil for nearly ten years. Before now, NASA had been depending on Russian spacecraft to provide transportation to the space station. This launch is also significant because it was the first time a privately engineered spacecraft launched human beings into orbit, as well as SpaceX's first crewed mission. Ultimately, the May 30th launch was considered a test mission. The November 15th mission was the first fully operational mission launched by NASA in nearly a decade.

The launch was initially set to take place on the 14th; however, weather conditions were obstructing the flight path. The next day, the weather still threatened to postpone the launch. Despite the risk, the launch was carried out smoothly. Ironically, an almost identical turn of events occurred earlier this year when the May 27th test mission was delayed.

Most notably absent from the launch was SpaceX founder Elon Musk. He had potentially tested positive for COVID-19, (meaning that he took 4 tests but 2 were negative and 2 were positive).

The Crew Dragon spacecraft was named Resilience to represent the difficulties that have been faced this year. Just before the launch, Commander Mike Hopkins gave a message of unity to everyone, "By working together on these difficult times, you've inspired the nation, and the world... Crew 1 for all".