

# Message from the OISS Director

Allison Blizzard

Jan 11, 2021

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

**So much has happened** since my last message. You received an email from Alicia Adams (OISS Assistant Director) and me on Wednesday, as the Capitol was under attack. Congress did complete its certification of the electoral college votes by the early morning hours of Thursday, so the US is set to hold the inauguration of President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris next week. Today, Speaker of the House Pelosi brought articles of impeachment against President Trump, for the 2nd time. -- All this is unprecedented, as so many events in the US and around the world have been this past year, and it is very hard for me to even know what to think or say about all this. One thing I would offer is that I see this as a major stress test of the US democracy, and it is my hope that we will pass this test and come out stronger.

Also last week, Jan 4, the Department of Homeland Security sent out a broadcast message regarding Optional Practical Training (OPT). They reminded us that there has been an ongoing investigation underway called **Operation OPTical Illusion**, which has sought to uncover any cases of fraudulent or illegal use of the OPT system that is afforded to F-1 international students upon degree completion. (The Chronicle of Higher Education described this in an [article](#) in Oct 2020.) The OISS SEVIS Team is going to be reaching out to all PCC OPT students to make sure that they have updated their required job-related data in SEVIS to ensure that they remain in status and within the OPT regulations.

This is **my last full week at PCC**. (As I announced in my last "Message," I will be moving to a new position at Reed College next week.) The OISS Team is positioned well to provide continued excellent service and support for international students as well as faculty and staff. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the OISS Team, either via the (zoom) [Virtual Front Desk](#), or you can find specific contacts on the [OISS Teams web page](#).

I wish you all the very best in 2021 and beyond! Please do not hesitate to connect with me on LinkedIn or other social media. I would love to **keep in touch**!



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allison".

[www.pcc.edu/international-students](http://www.pcc.edu/international-students)

