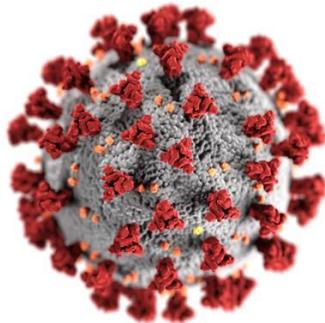# GivePulse

NEWS, UPDATES, AND STORIES OF IMPACT

Getting Creative with Community Based Learning During a Public Health Crisis

The Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is presenting a number of challenges to our local and campus communities as the nation works together to mitigate its spread. If there is anything the GivePulse team can do, please don't hesitate to reach out.

In the interim, we've been following the developments across the country as institutions make modifications to their in-person classes and campus gatherings. A number of helpful conversations among colleagues are happening on the HE-SL listserv and in the Community Service and Service Learning Professionals Facebook Group regarding how best to support students, faculty, and partners as institutions move courses online for the remainder of the spring term.

Here is a quick summary of a few ideas being discussed:

- Campuses are hearing from nursing homes, hospitals and other facilities with vulnerable populations cancelling all volunteers/interns for the

foreseeable future. Could there be a way to work with staff to share videos or use technology to continue visits with residents or patients of these facilities?

- How can direct service, be transitioned to project based work? This would be an important conversation to have with partners and explore how students might continue to support the organization. A few suggestions made include...
    - o Create marketing or social media content for future use
    - o Conduct research on best practices or develop tools for program assessment
    - o Support the development team by researching grant opportunities
    - o Provide support via phone or web based meetings with agency team member support to those being served by the organization or others in the community
- One campus prepared reflection questions for faculty to discuss public health and the intersectionality of their course topic in light of the global health crisis.
- Another colleague commented that we must take into consideration the impact on our partners and their capacity to support alternatives at this time, particularly if they are an organization attempting to mitigate risk.

Given these challenging times, we must work closely with community partners, faculty, students and staff to develop equitable and fair alternatives. It is a poignant reminder that community engaged learning is not about meeting an hours requirement, but rather about the quality of the learning experience. Certainly the interruption of a students experience is an opportune time to reflect and respond to the challenges faced by the community partner, the clients served and the student learner themselves. Our colleague Emily Shields, with Iowa and Minnesota Campus Compact wrote an [excellent blog post with a number of helpful tips and ideas.](#)

Most importantly, as we make modifications to students engaged learning experiences, we should follow the guidance of local public health authorities and our campus administration. Below is a helpful guide we put together based on the current CDC guidelines.

Some helpful links...

- [Quick link to the CDC Guidelines for Institutions of Higher Education](#)
- [Quick link to the CDC Guidelines for Community and Faith-Based Organizations](#)
- [Communication Resources from the CDC (print, videos and more)](#)

Transforming Your Online Teaching From Crisis to Community

"...By thinking of a pandemic as a chance for sharing compassionately as well as being fearful, we can gain something invaluable that will help us survive not only this crisis but *all* crises.

This is what we mean by "engaged" learning: understanding the condition of our students' lives and finding the best ways of teaching within (rather than in spite of) those conditions. ..."

[Check out this excellent advice column](#) by faculty member, Cathy Davidson, and doctoral candidate, Christina Katopodis at CUNY, posted recently on *Inside Higher Education.*

Upcoming Community Engagement Conferences

Given the extenuating circumstances a number of conferences have been cancelled in recent days. We will miss interacting with you this spring but look forward to seeing you at future conferences. Below you will find a number of conference offerings this summer and fall.

We hope to offer some of our conference presentations as webinars in the near future. We will keep you posted!

Summer 2020

[Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Meeting](#)
Minneapolis, MN
June 3-6, 2020

[Connect 2020 - Campus Labs Users Conference](#)*
Philadelphia, PA
June 7-10, 2020

[Points of Light Conference](#)*
Washington, DC
June 10-12, 2020

[Community-Campus Partnerships for Health](#)
Flint, MI
August 18-21, 2020

Fall 2020

[Engagement Scholarship Consortium](#)
Philadelphia, PA
September 15-16, 2020

[National Society of Experiential Education](#)*
Salt Lake City, UT
September 21-23, 2020

[The Talloires Network Leaders Conference](#)*

Boston, MA

September 24-27, 2020

[Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities](#)*

San Diego, CA

October 19-21, 2020

[Association of Public and Land Grant Universities](#)*

Orlando, FL

November 8-10, 2020

[International Association for Research on Service-Learning & Community Engagement](#)*

Minneapolis, MN

November 11-13, 2020

*denotes conferences where you will have the opportunity to meet members of the GivePulse team.

To learn more about GivePulse and our growing community of Higher Education users, schedule a call with one of our success managers.

[Schedule a call](#)