



NACURH

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE
& UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE HALLS, INC.

To: NACURH Inc.
From: Lena Schwallenberg, NACURH Chairperson
Subject: COVID-19
Date: April 2, 2020

Dear NACURH,

The three links stand for caring, dedication, and participation. These are the values we hold most dear as we create environments that empower, motivate and equip residence hall leaders from over 370 institutions. I've been thinking a lot about these, particularly now, as we and the global community navigate the pandemic known as COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus).

This crisis has been challenging for higher education, specifically those in housing and residence life, as many schools have transitioned to virtual instruction and emptied their halls. NACURH has also been significantly impacted, and we are continuing to explore the possibility of our first virtual Annual Conference in partnership with the University of Dayton. Our priority continues to be the health and safety of our members, and more information will be released in the coming weeks as we meet (virtually) over our long-loved platform of Zoom.

Beyond that, though, we are looking at other ways to continue upholding our mission and values despite such uncertain and unprecedented circumstances, including but not limited to:

- **Resources:** The commission of three working groups charged with creating expanded resources on the following topics: Elections & Inductions, Training & Transition, and Programming & Engagement. These groups are tasked with reimagining how RHA/NRHH processes and purposes can be adapted to fit virtual environments.
- **Webinars:** The creation of a free webinar and roundtable series through May, which can be found [here](#). Topics include digital student activism, advising virtually, translating your student leadership experience, and creating structure and routines for success.
- **Scholarships & Grants:** The allocation of funds to provide academic and professional development for students. NACURH is still planning to offer our [Dan Ocampo Academic Scholarship](#), [NRHH Member Scholarship](#), [NACURH & OCM STARS College Honorarium](#), and [NACURH 2020 Annual Conference Scholarship](#) (pending the feasibility of a virtual experience) to help offset costs that may otherwise serve as a barrier for educational access and involvement in NACURH. We have extended the deadline for the STARS College Honorarium.

- **The Honorary:** Addressing matters related to NRHH, which can be found [here](#). This includes plans for OTMs, how to engage with NRHH Day of Service, and tips for adapting your chapter processes - like inductions - to function virtually.
- **Increased Time:** The extension of deadlines for NACURH bid submissions for all school and individual awards. While the deadline was initially April 26, we will be extending this to May 3, as we recognize the challenges that distance, lack of access to technology, lagging WiFi, and competing priorities have on the bidding process. Bids can be submitted [here](#), and the award bid guide can be found attached to this email and on our website [here](#).

Finally, I'd like to refocus back on our values: caring, dedication, and participation. Our role on campus is to create community for students who need it most. We turn halls into homes for students, particularly those who do not have viable or safe places to return to. As ACUHO-I President Von Stange said, "I believe we must advocate to house those who do not have other options." Share concerns with your housing department and hall staff, advocate for protections and accommodations for students without places to go, and lead with bravery through uncertainty. We may be apart, but we are not alone, and our community will prevail despite the distance.

If you are an advisor looking for more professional housing resources regarding the pandemic, you can review materials created by [ACUHO-I](#). For up-to-date health information regarding COVID-19, please refer to the [World Health Organization's website](#).

Thank you for your continued service and dedication to your campus communities. NACURH is proud to exemplify our values by serving you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at chair@nacurh.org.

On Behalf of NACURH,



Lena Schwallenberg
NACURH Chairperson