

Covid-19 Communications

Tuesday, June 19, 2020

Greetings from Montezuma,

I've seen it again and again. When a speaker or a group presents to our students, they listen, they think, and then they move quickly to "OK, what are we going to do about this?" It's not surprising. The UWC movement selects for "dreamers who do." Yet the willingness of our students to move from thought to action is also a testament to the UWC mission and the way in which all of us who commit to it strive for responsible and mutually respectful action in all we do.



Of course action takes many forms. It can be an act of solidarity with a cause we believe in. It can be a volunteer effort. It can be doing our jobs in ways that are consistent with our values. It can be contributing to our various communities through constructive engagement. It can be giving our hard earnings to a cause we believe in. It can be standing up to injustice wherever we see it, in ourselves and in the institutions we are committed to. It can be standing with the other when we are afraid, and graciously accepting the other when they stand with us.

This message is meant to focus our attention on important actions--some we are calling upon you to consider, and some you have exercised to the good of so many already. The list is by no means exhaustive; it is meant as an invitation and as a thank you note all wrapped up in one.

- **As we work to bring our cohort of first-year students to campus in August, we are encouraging all of our alumni and friends who live in, or are residents of, the U.S. to advocate for the opening of U.S. consulates and the lifting of travel bans that may make it more challenging for our students to start the school year.** We've recently [added a page](#) to our website featuring sample letters to congressional representatives, scripts for phone calls, and other resources. Please take ten minutes and call your representative on behalf of UWC-USA, Davis Colleges and Universities, and all institutions in the U.S. dedicated to intercultural understanding through intercultural exchange.
- UWC-USA's Bartos Institute for the Constructive Engagement of Conflict is hosting an online webinar with activist and author Arjun S. Sethi on police surveillance and racism this Saturday morning, June 13, 2020 at 9:00 am MDT. Learn more and [register for this free webinar here](#). We will be continuing programming throughout the year in response to current events in the U.S.
- Our Bartos Institute staff and students have assembled a resource page on our website for those who want to know and do more about justice and equity - particularly as it relates to recent events here in the U.S. [Please check out the books, podcasts, blog posts, and articles](#) and feel free to suggest additional resources for our community.
- We have a number of opportunities for alumni and friends of the school to work with our students as volunteer fellows over the course of the year. Specifically, we have an

[Alumni-in-Residence](#) program and Signature Programs Fellows opportunities in [Wilderness](#), [Constructive Engagement of Conflict](#), and [Sustainability](#).

- Next weekend UWC-USA will be active in Las Vegas. I will speak briefly at a Juneteenth event calling for equity and justice. On Saturday, we are contributing staff, food, masks, books, and toys to a “mask parade” and festival for up to 1000 local children at Melody Park.
- We will be hosting sessions for students and parents during the last week of June to specifically address our medical preparations and expectations for student partnership to make the school year a healthy one. Our community will require certain action from all of us if we are to have a successful year and this demands that we set expectations and define the standards that will guide us. A specific invitation will be sent to students and parents the week beforehand.
- We will be hosting a Town Hall toward the end of June for our second-years to plan for next year. We have been working with STUCO (Student Council) representatives and will expand to include all members of the rising second-year class.
- A heartfelt thanks to everyone who made our Annual Fund a success this year. We successfully raised \$2 million for programs and scholarships, which unlocked an additional \$2 million from the Davis family’s generous matching grant. We saw a remarkable 550 gifts in the final weekend and, while we are still calculating numbers, it looks like our alumni participation rate is at or near a record. This is an important piece of our budget for next year and our fiscal health going forward; we are so grateful for the ways our community rose to the challenge.

Witnessing and participating in demonstrations in the streets of cities around the world, it’s easy to feel overwhelmed. So many are asking “What can I DO?” The only answer I know is: do what you can, wherever you are, to be the change that will make the world more just and peaceful. We can all start by listening to those who experience the world differently. And by acting out of hope for a better future for all of our children. It starts within us, and between us, in the day to day. You can also write letters or call your congressional delegations. Join a conversation that makes you uncomfortable. Offer the resources you have, be they time, talent, or treasure. Take note and respond. It really only matters that we show up. And act.

My hope for a bright future for all,

Victoria
