



DELTA PHI EPSILON

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Hello members of Delta Phi Epsilon, this is Nicole DeFeo, Executive Director, with my bi-weekly update and video.

I just want to start by saying how amazing I think you all are. You are nothing short of heroic, my friends. I see you on social media. I see you interacting with our staff members, and I am so proud of you for taking the time to give space and grace. For being kind with one another in times when anxiety can take over and it's very difficult to see straight. I think you are the true unsung heroes of this entire situation. I know that it is scary times and that we are all looking for a sense of belonging to something and somewhere. I've heard several times about the "Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs." I think that is something a lot of experts are leaning back on. The need for biological things like food and shelter and safety and then, right there, that sense of belonging. I think people are going up and down between those three needs, and I am just watching it all unfold within our organization and our organizational pages. I just want to give you a heartfelt thanks for being stronger, being braver, being the people who I want to associate with and I think that that is amazing. So, I have some updates for you and I want to make them quick and move right along through them.

We have some amazing programming coming your way in April that our leadership has been working on with our staff members to really ensure, collegiate experience for sure, but also our alumnae. Trying to stay connected and find that sense of belonging with one another is something we really value. And so, we are putting forth a number of virtual webinars and programs that I think are going to be really great, for lack of a better term. And, they are in all types of areas from leadership to celebrating to operations of your chapters and alumnae associations. I really think if you take an opportunity to jump into some of these recourses you are really going to find connection, and I think that is what we all are looking for right now, and that is the value that Delta Phi Epsilon can bring to the table in this situation. So please take some time to watch your email in the next few days because we will be inviting you to join and register for a whole host of different events and things through the month of April. I am excited about that.

I would like to touch on refunds and housing in particular right now. I appreciate the space and grace that you and your parents and guardians have given to us to try to figure out where we are financially and if we can afford to give some credits and refunds back to members. Unfortunately, it is a long long process and we are still really at the very beginning of it. So, as we go through it I just ask for a little more patience and I will keep you updated as we have more information. We want to do what is fiscally sound for the entire organization, but also being mindful that our members are in need at this time, as well. So, just give us a little space and grace a little bit longer and I super appreciate that.

I'd like to touch a little bit on the leadership forum. It is scheduled for July 24 as of right this minute. However, the board, the International Governing Board, did meet this weekend and we discussed the viability of that date, and we are now in talks with our venue, Disney, to see if there is an opportunity maybe to move it to a later time or what we would have to do with that. I don't have an exact update but I want you to know that things are going to change and I'm not sure where they'll land but by April



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30th I will have an answer for you and I will let you know on that. That is super important because I know people are starting to think about traveling and what that will look like.

The final thing I want to touch upon is your mental health and resources that Delta Phi Epsilon can give you in that area. As of today, there is a live website that contains all of our Coronavirus, COVID-19, resources in one place. All of the communications that we have been sending out to the membership are housed there as well as any other resources that we have given you, also, updates on what IHQ is doing and our work from home efforts. There is also a section about the Harriette Hirsch Sisterhood Fund and their COVID-19 response, along with an application there for you to take a look at. And then we have also added a resources page and that resources page talks about other companies and what they're offering and links to get yourself some help there and some mental health links. I think at this time, in order for us to continue to move forward and be healthy ourselves, we need to find things that are going to help us align our mind body and soul, all in one place and be able to get out and fill our cup, or our pitchers, so we can fill the cups of other people. Because that is what DPhiE women do, we help, we fix the world. So, in order to do that you need to fix yourself and keep yourself healthy and then you will be able to help other people. So go ahead and visit that page. You can find that by going to DPhiE.org and up in the right corner you will see COVID resources. If you prefer you can also go to the DPhiEfoundation.org page and there is a link there you can also click on and it will take you to the same place and then review some of those resources for yourself.

I think it is really important to wrap up by underscoring how we need to follow the rules that are being put in front of us right now. I am watching the news and I am seeing people going on vacation and on spring breaks and having a good time. As that rises, so rises the fear and number of people affected. I beg of you, please do what is being asked. Stay home. Stay with your family. Wash your hands. Practice good social distancing. Together we will all get through this. Thank you so much for listening. I look forward to seeing you in another couple weeks and joining you then.