

Subject: [col-sw-emp-staff-appt] UPDATE: COVID-19: GSSW Updates
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 9:44:08 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: Amanda Moore McBride
To: Christine Mafana
Attachments: image009.png, image010.png, image011.png, image012.png

GSSW faculty, staff, and doctoral students,

My greatest hope for you right now is that you are finding moments of rest and peace. Each day can feel a little more surreal than the last. It is so important that we ground ourselves right now, removing ourselves from the steady stream of inputs and appreciating the small, simple joys of life. This grounding is needed even more, as the societal changes and uncertainties for our personal and professional lives stretch ever more into the future.

I write with a range of updates across the school, and I want to start where I last left off with you. Safer at home means just that: we are all still safer at home. DU plans a [phased reopening](#), with Phase II effective now. (Thank you to all who attended last week's DU town hall as the phased plan was changed as a result of your input.) You should familiarize yourself with the plan, which will continue to evolve as new state and local orders are received.

That said, GSSW is functioning well remotely, across all areas of the school, which is due to your positive attitudes and vigilant efforts. We will continue to be guided by science, and exercise our own best judgment. There is no reason to risk public health by having any of us return to campus now.

There is much about the future that remains unknown. The EAC is working now to draft scenarios for the next academic year across all of our programs and functional areas. This planning is informed by DU's [task forces](#) and also considers our unique school context, culture, and logistics, e.g., the size of our buildings and spaces. Once we have draft possibilities for the next academic year, we will host a range of input sessions with the school community.

The EAC and I continue to welcome your thoughts, concerns, and ideas, and hope that you will share them with us. We have created a [simple, anonymous form](#) for you. Please share your thoughts by Tuesday, May 19.

I hope that you experience and appreciate the values that guide our school every day—the value and worth of every individual, the pursuit of knowledge through learning and science, and the transformative impact of community. I am grateful that we have these values, and each other, to guide us through the changes and uncertainties.

With appreciation,
Amanda

MSW Programs:

- All summer courses will be online. You may hear that some DU schools and colleges are experimenting with very small courses on campus. However, GSSW will remain remote until further notice.
- Whether fall quarter is online or on ground or some combination is still unknown, though the school is currently planning for all scenarios for fall, winter, and spring quarters. We want to be prepared, and we will do our best to communicate about the possible options and supports as soon as possible, with the goal of having all options outlined by early June. If you want to share ideas or concerns, you can contact Professor Leslie Hasche, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. GSSW will partner with DU on messaging to students throughout the summer to help frame expectations and to offer advising supports for fall.
- We are excited to see Denver Campus MSW applicants' receptivity to our multiple start dates (summer, fall, and winter quarters for advanced standing and fall and winter quarters for the traditional two year). Deposits continue to roll in, and overall enrollments are keeping pace with last year. Fall is the most popular quarter to start for both the advanced standing students and the two year students.
- Just a reminder: continuing students across all MSW programs may apply for a field education waiver in summer quarter, should they wish to engage in face-to-face field activities. This university-approved option is now in effect.

PhD Program:

We have five deposited, new students joining the program in the fall. We are excited to welcome the new cohort to the school through a phased, virtual orientation over the summer.

Research:

Although researchers are among some of the first to return to campus in the Phase II rollback, GSSW researchers continue to work remotely. Professor Jenn Bellamy, Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development, continues to be available to provide individual consultations on faculty and staff research projects.

Access to Campus:

Should you need access to campus for exceptional reasons or to retrieve items from your office, please contact Hope Wisneski, Associate Dean for Operations, who is serving as GSSW's COVID-19 building access manager. There are protocols that must be followed for access to be provided during Phase II.

Commencement:

The university announced yesterday that it is postponing the June 2020 commencement to June 2021. However, they are planning a range of events for all graduates and their families from noon to 6pm on Friday, June 12.

GSSW has also made plans to uniquely celebrate our graduates, as I shared with the graduates via [this email](#) yesterday. You are all welcome to join us! Please hold the date and time of the following virtual events. Logistical information is forthcoming.

Awards and Doctoral Ceremony: Thursday, June 11, 3:00pm to 4:00pm
2020 Graduation Celebration: Friday, June 12, 10:00am to 11:30am

Internal Community Engagement:

Please be sure to check the [upcoming internal gatherings](#) that are planned. We are a fun bunch! It is nice to have these outlets to be together informally, especially since many of us are missing our opportunities to connect in the hallways.

External Community Engagement:

Please continue to help us promote the incredible [continuing education events](#) that are planned. If you do not yet follow GSSW on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, please do, and share these events with your networks when they are posted.

Health and Wellness:

Please remember the resources available to support you during this trying time.

For faculty and staff, you can call 1-888-881-LINC [5462], or log in to the [SupportLinc website](#) with the username: universityofdenver.

For doctoral students, please contact Student Outreach and Support at sos@du.edu or by calling 303-871-2400.

Accolades:

We are fortunate for the leadership of Professor Leslie Hasche, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, who is representing GSSW on the DU Fall Logistics Task Force, and Professor Stephanie George, MSW@Denver Director, who is representing GSSW on the DU Digital and Online Strategy Task Force.

If you have not yet nominated someone for a DU "You Rock" award, please [read more](#) about this initiative, and consider recognizing members of our GSSW community.

**Amanda Moore McBride, PhD
Morris Endowed Dean and Professor**

Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver
2148 S. High Street, Craig Hall 306, Denver, Colorado 80208
303.871.2203 | Amanda.McBride@du.edu | [Portfolio and CV](#) | [she/her/hers](#)



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