



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Greetings, all,

At this time, the YMCA of Middle Tennessee has made the decision to table all of our activities for at least two weeks. We do not know at this point when we will be back to work.

The CCE is going to be temporarily furloughed to assist the Y in completing mission-critical objectives, providing support for our communities, health care workers, and those impacted by this pandemic. We know that this is the right call, and we look forward to using the time to figuring out how we can best assist. These are strange and difficult times, but as we tell people all the time: we have worked with young leaders all across this state and seen first-hand the compassion, wisdom, and leadership they are capable of. We know that there's virtually nothing we cannot accomplish when we work together.

We will continue to send out updates if the situation changes, but at this time, here is how things stand:

- **VIRTUAL ALTERNATIVES:** Any virtual alternative is on hold for the moment. We want to ensure that the Y's resources go directly into the communities that need it right now, so we will reach out if this changes and let you know if we are able to offer anything.
- **AWARDS/PRE-CON ASSIGNMENTS:** We still plan to give out component awards and outstanding bill awards based on the quality of pre-conference assignments turned in. Turning in your pre-conference assignment is entirely optional. We will announce winners and send out awards as soon as we return to work. If someone's bill or pre-conference assignment has not been turned in, they are welcome to turn it in for consideration anytime during the next few weeks. We won't be imposing a strict deadline on this work, and if you would like to submit updates or revisions during this time, you are welcome to do so.
- **ELECTIONS:** For those running for office, we will still be selecting winners once we return. The awards committee will work off the platform that you submitted when you registered, your pre-conference assignment, and any speech that you'd like to submit over the next couple of weeks. For those seeking office in a special component, make sure you've turned in your pre-conference assignment and be on the lookout for an e-mail containing an application in a few months once we return.
- **CONFERENCE BOOKS:** Tri-Star's book has been posted online. We will be putting the book for the Volunteer conference together once we return.

Finally, we want to thank you all for everything you've done this school year. Your flexibility, patience, hard work, and dedication are the things that make this conference truly special. Youth in Government is not what it is because we use the Capitol building, because of the order and length of our sessions, or because of Susan, Elise, or Tyler. Youth in Government is special because of the collective effort, talent, and kindness of our student officers and advisors. It couldn't be done without you, and we feel beyond privileged to work as partners with all of you.

We understand that this is disappointing - we are disappointed as well. We encourage you to redirect that energy into your community. Civic Engagement is a skill, one that the next period of our lives will offer many opportunities to practice. Whether you realize it or not, people in your lives look to your example, and will be drawing their cues about how to act from you. Set the tone right, embrace the challenge ahead, and continue to improve the world with your knack for servant leadership.

We love you all, and we'll talk to you soon,

Susan, Elise, and Tyler