

April 1, 2020

To: All GSP Applicants, their parents/legal guardians, and GSP Coordinators at the School and School District levels

From: Aristofanes Cedeño, Executive Director of the Governor's Scholars Program

All of us associated with the Governor's Scholars Program sincerely hope that this message finds you and your family both safe and well during these uncertain times. Like all of you, we have been following the COVID-19 situation since its inception, not only as individuals concerned for our families, friends, and coworkers, but with an eye on its potential impact to GSP 2020.

Please know that our first area of concern each and every year is with the safety, health, and well-being of our students. While we have no way of knowing what the coming weeks will hold, the fact that our program is not scheduled to begin until mid-June does provide us with time to evaluate options. In short, we have not made any decision to cancel this summer's program at this time.

In consultation with members of the Executive Committee of the GSP Board of Directors, we are postponing the notifications of the status of the applications until Thursday or Friday, April 16/17.

Originally, in our Important Date Calendar, we had announced April 9th, 2020 as the last day for the Governor's Scholars Program to mail notification letters. While we are diligently working on the selection of our 2020 Governor's Scholars, the current situation has somewhat delayed that process.

This means that selected Governor's Scholars and their families will also be provided additional time to make their decision, given this situation. We will be working diligently with our host campus partners at Morehead State University, Centre College and Bellarmine University to create tentative plans for the summer. Ultimately, those plans will depend on a number of other decisions and directives, including but not limited to the Office of the Governor and our three host campuses.

We know that many applicants worked hard over their entire careers for the opportunity to attend our program, and we will do everything possible to make GSP happen; however, we will not make any decision that will put our students or staff in danger. As you can likely guess, this is a fluid situation for us, just as it is for everyone. I cannot provide an exact timeline to share our plans, given the amount of uncertainty but know that we will always err on the side of caution.

If we are able to hold the program, it will be imperative that parents/legal guardians partner with us in ensuring that your children are safe. This will undoubtedly mean providing honest answers to enhanced health questions this year and recognizing that an onsite program will have limitations that have not existed in previous years.

I know everyone will have questions going forward, but we are unlikely to have any tentative plans in place before the notifications now scheduled to be mailed April 16/17.

Thank you for your time, and we wish you and your loved ones all the best as we all work towards the same goal of a safe and healthy future.