

MEMO TO: SELECTED 2020 GOVERNOR’S SCHOLARS AND THEIR PARENTS/LEGAL GUARDIANS

FROM: Aristófanés Cedeño, Executive Director

The unusual circumstances that our world faces nowadays have required that we change the way we plan for the future, even the immediate future. With that in mind, I would like to keep you posted about the planning processes for an onsite program this summer and ask that you please disregard any calendar with deadlines that was published by the Governor’s Scholars Program prior to March 15, 2020. We are beginning anew, and I would like to share with you the immediate next steps for you to follow. From now on, when a change becomes necessary, we will communicate via the website and, whenever possible, via the e-mail address that you provided in your application. Make an effort to check these two sources regularly.

Tomorrow, Tuesday, April 28th, we will send to your email a document titled **Preliminary Priority Information Form** for you to complete and return as soon as possible. We need the information from this form to a) maintain communication with you as/if needed, and b) to facilitate the planning and assignments in the next few weeks.

Question 7 of the Form asks about your intention as of today. Saying “Yes” or “No” is not binding at this time; in a few weeks we will send a specific form in which you will state your intention to attend. By then, we will be in a more advanced planning stage and will be able to offer better insights for you to make the decision that best suits you. Be assured that we will not drop you if you answer “No,” but it will be tremendously helpful to know your intention as we deal with campus assignments.

Question 8 of the Form refers to any time conflict that you and your parents or legal guardians may have during the time frame provided in the question. Consider that the GSP will not be able to offer this year the full five weeks that other generations of Governor’s Scholars have enjoyed for several reasons, among them: a) one of our partner institutions will not be able to host the GSP at all, and in keeping with the idea of one program, we are brainstorming for solutions regarding accommodations on the other two campuses; b) the safety requirements ask for social distancing, which most likely mean that we cannot bring large groups to campuses; we will rather stagger a group every week or every two weeks; c) in complying with the new norms, we may have to assign every participant to a single room. These and other regulations will have to be followed in order for the GSP to have the onsite program.

Documents to be Sent to the GSP Offices

Please relax for now and we will send the list of modified documents. Do not follow any list from prior years and do not panic thinking that you are missing a deadline.

Help us by completing the Preliminary Priority Information Form. Submit it as soon as possible but no later than Friday, May 1st. Our goal is to have a plan for approval of the Board of Directors and to share with our two remaining host campuses by Monday, May 11th.

Thank you for your help and support. If the onsite program takes place, it will most likely be enhanced with the creation of a virtual community of the GSP (this does not necessarily mean online classes) to ensure that Governor’s Scholars have the opportunity to enjoy virtually some of the most memorable events such as Opening Day, a convocation, as well as other aspects of the GSP that we will not be able to have this year according to current circumstances.

Ultimately, as I have repeatedly stated, our decision to have an onsite program depends on so many other factors, decisions and directives, including the Office of the Governor, our Board of Directors and the two remaining Host Campuses.