



Thursday March 19, 2020

Dear MICC Community,

The past week at MICC has been unprecedented in our organization's history. With the growing concern of the COVID-19 virus and its devastating impact around the world, we had to make two significant decisions that have required our MICC community to pivot from our regular day to day business. First our single largest fundraising event and then quickly followed by the decision to have our programming and services move into a distance learning format.

I believe that the decision to move to distance learning and support is one that will keep our community safe, do our part in flattening the curve of COVID-19, while still allowing our community to move forward. The distance learning format while not ideal, it is a creative way for MICC to continue to deliver our services and keep our community engaged during this time of isolation. It is extremely important that we maintain our **daily routines** and **see the faces of our friends and co-workers**, which is why we will be doing our very best to leverage our Google platform. Our staff will provide resources, and trainings on how to access these tools from your homes, which will come via email from our Program Directors and Managers early next week.

I cannot be more proud of the MICC employees; they are an inspiration, they have displayed creativity, resilience and courage over the last week. There is no doubt in my mind that we have a team that is committed to our participants, families and their fellow co-workers.

First, on Saturday night we asked all of our families and friends to stand by and help us rally for our gala, and you did! It was a huge success because of all of you, thank you! As we were flipping our Gala virtual, we were also evaluating and building scenarios for a revised program delivery, while waiting for more information and guidance to come from the State of Minnesota, which came on Sunday afternoon. Monday morning, I asked our Program Directors and Managers to put a plan in place that would keep our students, participants and staff safe while still maintaining a **routine and engagement**. Our employees were all sent home to work remotely, and we have been working non-stop to get our distance programming and services in place ever since.



Our participants and families supported us when we needed you at the virtual Gala, and now our excellent MICC employees are working hard to support our participants and families during these difficult times of self-isolation. We believe that moving to a distance learning format, though not ideal is a critical tool for us to stay engaged with our participants. We believe that going to distance learning will allow us to make the best out of a difficult situation. And we believe that when this isolation period is over, our community will be even stronger.

With determination, with intentionality and commitment to stay on top of daily routines, we will all get through this. I truly believe that we will become more resilient when this is all said and done. All of this will eventually end, and when it does, MICC will be ready.

We are committed to providing the highest level of service that you have come to expect from MICC, while also responding responsibly and appropriately to this evolving health situation. MICC will be here for all of you during this difficult time.

Our Program Directors and key staff have been sending program specific information throughout the week, and they will continue to do so. Please reach out to our Program Directors with any specific questions you may have, Anna Hilfers Director of College Programs at 612-876-9423, Aaron Carper Director of Community Programs at 612-876-9438 and Sarah Arentson Director of Careers Programs at 612-876-9410.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Amy Gudmestad". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Amy Gudmestad  
Executive Director