

Message from the Committee Chair

In Support and Solidarity in this time of Crisis

Dear friends and colleagues of FSW,

I am rewriting this newsletter introduction, a message that I had already finished and put out of my mind weeks ago. The former draft now seems like it comes from another time, another world, and speaks in a voice that has no relevance to our shared here and now. It began with the standard greeting and expected welcome-back from spring break. That interim has now, in a certain sense, been extended indefinitely; and although we are still “returning,” we actually face a new and unfamiliar routine, as everything about our lives and our work feels like it is being suddenly redefined and reinvented on a nearly day-to-day basis.

I'd like to take this time, and this revision, as an opportunity to pledge my support for, and solidarity with, every one of you—longtime dear friends, recent and casual acquaintances, even new or unfamiliar faces. Let us remember that we are not only joined together in this moment, and this crisis, but we are also united in our commitment to education, which is itself a force for enduring community. As educators we are allied by shared belief in the power of knowledge to positively shape and guide human experience. And through our teaching we strengthen community by providing stability and continuity to our students, a fact that may become ever more important as we all, students and teachers alike, move toward increasing instability and uncertainty.

Please take care of yourselves and each other. And, even while observing safe physical distance, let us be generous in our mutual support of each other as we each strive to offer our students the kind of precious support that comes through a continued sense of meaning and purpose in the face of crisis.

On behalf of the Learning Assessment Committee, and Team AASPIRE, I wish all of you, and your loved ones, safety and health. I look forward to seeing you all at the end of this, and I hope that we will be stronger and more united for having gone through it together.

Best,

Elijah Pritchett



Dr. Elijah Pritchett
Professor, Humanities
LAC Chair