

## PeerForward's COVID-19 Response

### **To all our Peer Leaders, Education Partners, Alumni, Volunteers and Supporters:**

PeerForward takes the COVID-19 epidemic very seriously. PeerForward staff have suspended travel, are currently working from home, and are quickly designing a variety of ways to deliver services virtually. This will allow PeerForward and our school districts to prioritize what is most important – the safety of our families and communities.

We are routinely monitoring our partner school districts for administrative policies related to the virus as we plan for summer workshops. It is too soon to determine what the summer might bring, but we are preparing a variety of options.

The COVID-19 pandemic has come at a critical time for PeerForward. The heartbeat of our program – summer Workshops – are at risk, as well as partnership agreements for the coming school year, as our partners are understandably overwhelmed. This may have a direct effect on our operations. We will determine in the coming days the viability of our workshops and how we can best deliver PeerForward in the coming school year.

For now, we know many students still need guidance and advice on their journey to postsecondary education. Students are receiving acceptances and financial aid award letters and must make critical decisions that can affect their success. We also know many of our seniors may miss the rite of passage graduation ceremonies, while juniors must adjust to new testing dates and limited opportunities for campus visits. So, we will innovate to make sure students get the guidance they deserve. We will continue to monitor announcements from our school partners and government officials and work with partners to adjust as necessary.

We, like most nonprofits, have some difficult decisions ahead. PeerForward has begun the process of reviewing and revising our business and program models to ensure we can be here to help the hundreds of thousands of students in low-income communities that need our structure, training, and on-going support to get to higher education and all the opportunities a degree brings.

As always, we value you and our students. If there is anything we can do to support you as we weather this storm, please let us know.

Thank you and please take care,  
Gary Z. Linnen  
CEO, PeerForward