



**Dear SSW Alumni and Friends,**

The world has changed in the last 10 days! My thoughts are with you as we all face the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. SSW faculty, staff and students have been taxed to transition to remote, technology enhanced courses. Students are attempting to stay in field education. We have cancelled or postponed events and alumni activities, including our annual March Social Work Month event, as well as all commencement exercises in May. All changes are to support the health and safety of our community. The University has created a [website](#) with helpful, up-to-date information that might be useful to you.

At the School we remain optimistic and are focused on ensuring the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff while maintaining academic continuity. We are harnessing technology by using video conferencing to conduct classes, meetings and to keep our community connected. I am moved by the generosity of spirit and the help and outreach that members of our community have shown to each other and to their clients.

We have students who are facing the loss of jobs and extreme financial hardship. We have had several inquiries from alumni asking how they can help students at this time. If you are interested in making a gift follow [this link](#) to make a gift to the Schools Student Emergency Fund. All donations will go to support students who are facing true financial emergencies.

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students at Michigan Social Work, best wishes for the health and safety of you and your family. For those working with vulnerable people in communities across the country, thank you for your service at this time.

To all of our alumni and friends, best wishes to you and yours as we work together to stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Videka  
Dean

Friday, March 20, 2020