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Chair's Update KP Williams

Greetings and happy new year to each of you! As we reflect upon 2020 and anticipate the months and years ahead, I am hopeful in this new year that we can be mindful and intentional about our work and its implications for the communities of place, practice, and interest of which we are members.

My identities and professional interests have converged in my role as Chair of the Board of Directors at the intersection of community development and leadership education. For many, terms such as leadership and community development are equally specific yet ambiguous.

KP continues with an exploration of resilience.

[Learn More](#)

Global Challenges, Local Resilience 2021 CDS Virtual Conference



 Organized by the Great Plains IDEA
Community Development Faculty

The 2021 Community Development Society Virtual Conference will be held online July 12-15, 2021. The virtual conference will feature five amazing keynote speakers who will speak on important topics related to the conference theme, "Global Challenges, Local Resilience." Each keynote address will be followed by a panel discussion focused on local resilience and/or facilitator-led, small group discussions. We are very excited for each of these speakers to share their unique experiences and knowledge with everyone during this year's virtual conference.

[Learn More About Our Keynote Speakers](#)

The virtual conference will also feature plenary sessions on the effects the COVID-19 pandemic and the fight for racial justice are having on community development. Registration is open on the CDS website at: <https://cvent.me/YqLbX0>. The deadline to register is July 9, 2021.

We need you - get involved!



CDS is a membership driven organization. We need you to get involved in your organization. Together, we can build a stronger organization and support our work across the community development spectrum. Learn more about the activities below and join to play an active role in shaping the future of CDS.

Membership Recruitment & Retention Working Group

This working group is exploring ways to increase membership and encourages everyone to share the benefits of CDS with their colleagues. Benefits include networking, access to our

journals, CD Practice, annual conference, and awards. Please contact [Ron Hustedde](#) for more details.

[Learn More](#)

Membership Chapters Working Group

The Chapters working group is engaging international perspectives in CDS issues, exploring stronger partnerships with the International Association of Community Development (IACD), building a student chapter, and supporting CD practitioners and educators to collaborate. Please contact [Mary Simon-Leuci](#) for more details.

[Learn More](#)

Membership Communication & Engagement Working Group

This working group leads the Vanguard publication, CD Practice, and activities related to membership such as engagement on member needs and priorities. Activities include development of information materials and membership surveys. Please contact [Lisa Gilchrist](#) to join the committee or for more details.

Update from the Executive Leadership Fellow

The CDS Executive Leadership Fellow, Eric Trevan, shares his perspective on the importance of active listening and deepening a commitment to equity. Eric is working to secure additional funding streams and increase connections with Indigenous peoples.

[Learn More](#)

RESOURCES

The Membership Committee knows that we are living in challenging times with respect to the global pandemic, economic shifts, inequities and many other factors. We know these challenges impact CDS members differently depending on personal and local situations.

We have put together some resources to support mental wellness and self-care during these times. Please make use of these resources or those offered locally to support yourself.



In the UK, the [Mental Health Foundation](#) has a vision for a world with good mental health for all. Their mission is to help people understand, protect and sustain their mental health. Prevention is at the heart of what they do, because the best way to deal with a crisis is to prevent it from happening in the first place.

[Learn More](#)



In Australia, [Everymind](#) is dedicated to reducing mental ill-health, reducing suicide and improving wellbeing. They offer programs, research, and resources.

[Learn More](#)



In the United States, the [American Mental Wellness Association](#) envisions a world that through public education values prevention, early detection, early intervention, scientific research, and cures of mental health conditions, including substance misuse, for the holistic health of the individual and society.

[Learn More](#)

[Psychology Today](#) shares a blog on self-care tips. Learn ways you can improve sleep, manage stress, and build personal resiliency. Exercise, eating right, and getting outdoors are all suggested.



GET INVOLVED



Stay informed. Review the latest notes from our Board of Directors.

[CDS Annual Business Meeting](#)

[August 2020 Meeting Notes](#)



[MEMBER BENEFITS](#)

CDS Now Using Stripe for Payment Processing

You may notice that CDS no longer uses PayPal. Due to a number of on-going administrative issues with PayPal, CDS moved to Stripe for payment processing.

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STAY CONNECTED

