

CommUnity Conversations

Preparing the Next Generation

April 30th, 2020

This event was the sixth in a series of virtual conversations bringing together third sector organizations and allies from around Wisconsin to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on the sector. Seventeen education and nonprofit professionals were in attendance. This conversation focused on insights for graduating students and early career professionals who are considering working in the third sector.

Trends in Nonprofit Careers

Job seekers looking to start a career in the third sector will likely face challenges arising from the COVID-19 epidemic. Many nonprofit organizations are pausing hiring as a result of disrupted programming or revenue streams. Others are moving ahead with hiring, but have adjusted schedules for interviews, start dates, and on-boarding.

Despite these disruptions, there are also emerging opportunities in the nonprofit sector. Tech-savvy professionals with digital communications skills are well positioned to help organizations transition to a virtual service environment. The transition to remote work means that job seekers have more flexibility to take advantage of national and international job opportunities.

Professional Development

Attendees shared practical job hunting tips. Sending a few applications that speak to organizations' missions will go further than a lot of generic applications. Job seekers were also advised to ask about the impacts of COVID-19 on the organization and their on-boarding process during interviews.

Relationship building, or networking, can play an important role in professional development. Because so much of work is now online, it may be easier to reach experts in the nonprofit field for informational interviews. Volunteering is another way to

explore career pathways and potential work environments. Building connections in the nonprofit field can help develop your focus and open up new opportunities.

Self Care During COVID-19

Many graduating students are also facing personal challenges during the COVID-19 epidemic. Accordingly, a sustainable transition from school to work during this time has to involve self care and community care practices.

In light of this, attendees shared a wealth of wellness resources for graduating students and third sector professionals generally. A list of health and professional resources is available on the reverse of this document.

Key Takeaways

- Showcase professional skills that can help organizations with the move to online operations.
- Ask questions in interviews about the organizational impacts of COVID-19.
- Since many organizations are shifting to remote work, explore national or even international job opportunities.
- Connect with people and organizations whose work you admire.
- Take time to care for yourself, including creating a healthy work-from-home environment.

Health, Wellness, and Professional Resources

General Wellness Tips and Resource Guides

[UW-Madison Center for Healthy Minds: COVID-19 Well-Being Toolkit and Resources](#)

[Campus Compact for Wisconsin COVID-19 Conversation and Resources: Wellness and Mental Health Resources](#)

[Jobs that Help: 17 Self-Care Steps for Job Seekers](#)

[Healthline: 26 Working from Home Tips While Self-Isolating During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

Mental Health Resources

[UW-Madison Center for Healthy Minds: Healthy Minds Program](#)

[This Way Up](#)

[Smiling Mind](#)

Professional Development Resources

[UW-Madison School of Human Ecology: Job Search Resources](#)

[Jobs that Help: The Best Career Guides to Landing Your Nonprofit Dream Job](#)

[Stanford News: Instead of 'finding your passion,' try developing it](#)

[99U: 'Follow your passion' is bad advice](#)

[The Muse: 51 Great Questions to Ask in an Interview](#)

[LinkedIn Learning: Developing your Emotional Intelligence Online Class](#)



Extension

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