

Olivia Yahya, CABE Board President
Jan Gustafson-Corea, CABE CEO

RE: SUSPENSION of the CABE 2020 Annual Conference, April 8-11, 2020, in San Francisco

Dear CABE Community:

On behalf of the CABE Board of Directors and the CABE Team, it is with sadness and deep respect for our community that we are writing to share that **the CABE 2020 Conference to be held April 8-11, 2020, in San Francisco has been SUSPENDED.**

As reports of COVID-19 (the novel coronavirus) have increased rapidly in California and throughout the nation and our world, we have received hundreds of notifications from school districts and participants regarding travel restrictions prohibiting them from attending CABE 2020. While at one point we were reserving hope that our April conference might still be held, it is clear that it will be impossible for CABE 2020 to occur. For the health safety of all, and in communal response to this situation, CABE 2020 will be suspended.

OPTIONS:

With the suspension of CABE 2020, we will be offering two options for either ROLL OVER or REFUND to preregistered attendees, presenters and exhibitors. All pre-registered participants will receive detailed information by March 20, 2020 on how you or your district/organization will be able to select your option.

- 1) **#1—ROLL OVER:** Request that your fully paid CABE 2020 pre-registration be ROLLED OVER to CABE 2021 which will be held March 24-27, 2021 in Long Beach. Also, receive exclusive access to a special CABE 2020 website with speakers and other resources. We appreciate your consideration of this option.
- 2) **#2—REFUND:** Request a refund if you were pre-registered and have submitted payment for the conference. Refunds will be paid in full.

TIMELINES:

All pre-registered attendees, speakers, presenters, exhibitors, sponsors, and partners will receive detailed information by March 20, 2020 on how to select your option. Presenters, speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors will also be invited to roll over their participation and presentations to the CABE 2021 conference in Long Beach. Specific information on how to do so will be sent **by March 20.**

DISTRICT ORGANIZATION:

For attendees that were registered by a district or organization please contact your district leader for the option that will be selected.

HOTELS AND AIRLINES:

We strongly encourage you to consider contacting hotels and airlines as soon as possible to make your cancellations. The CABE 2020 hotels (the Hilton Union Square, the Parc 55, and the Hotel Nikko) all have cancellation policies that will offer full refunds. If CABE made your reservation directly for hotel or travel, we will handle the cancellation.

OUR COMMITMENT:

As a part of a community that stands for equity, multilingual and multicultural inclusion, social justice and compassion for all, we find ourselves with a deep sense of sadness that we will not be able to gather in person as a community this year, and of course, under the seriousness of this situation, there is no other action than suspension to take at this time. Our CAFE Board and Team have followed and assessed the COVID-19 situation minute by minute and thank you for your support and patience as we reached our decision as an organization. We share the deep concerns of our community and have prioritized the health and safety of all. You have our commitment to stand side by side with you during these challenging times and always—in support of all students, educators, families and our entire community.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS:

As a reminder, it is highly recommended to follow the guidelines by the CDC and other agencies for COVID-19 preparedness and to reduce the risk of getting sick:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Cover your cough or sneeze;
- Stay home if you are sick;
- Get your flu shot to protect against flu or symptoms similar to COVID-19;
- Try alternatives to shaking hands, like an elbow bump or wave; and
- If you have recently returned from a country with ongoing COVID-19 infections, monitor your health and follow the instructions of public health officials; and,
- There is no recommendation to wear masks at this time to prevent yourself from getting sick.

Our hearts and support go out to each member of our CAFE familia as you provide direct support to students, teachers, parents and families and other educational staff in our schools, districts, county offices of education, universities, and other agencies. Please stay safe, informed, share kindness during these difficult situations, and as always, let's all keep washing our hands! **We are #CAFE STRONG!**

Please contact CAFE at customerservice@gocafe.org if you have any questions. Thank you for your support and partnership with CAFE.



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CAFE Board President



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