

March 25, 2020

To: All GHP Semifinalists, their parents/legal guardians, and local coordinators

From: Richard Parmer, Governor's Honors Program Manager

We sincerely hope that this message finds you and your family both safe and well during these uncertain times. Like all of you, we have been following the COVID-19 situation since its inception, not only as individuals concerned for our families, friends, and coworkers, but with an eye on its potential impact to GHP 2020.

Please know that our first area of concern each and every year is with the safety, health, and well-being of our students. While we have no way of knowing what the coming weeks will hold, the fact that our program is not scheduled to begin until mid-June does provide us with time to evaluate options. In short, we have **not** made any decision to cancel this summer's program at this time. The finalists and alternates will be released as planned on April 3, 2020 at approximately 5:00 PM through the application portal for each semifinalist (identical to the process of notifying the semifinalists). Finalists and their families will also be provided additional time to make their decision, given this situation. We have been working diligently with our partners at Berry College (our host) and with our summer medical providers to create tentative plans for the summer.

We know that many students worked hard over their entire careers for the opportunity to attend our program, and we will do everything possible to make GHP happen in some form; however, we will not make any decision that will put our students or staff in danger. As you can likely guess, this is a fluid situation for us, just as it is for everyone. I cannot provide an exact timeline to share our plans, given the amount of uncertainty but know that we will always err on the side of caution.

If we are able to hold the program, it will be imperative that parents/legal guardians partner with us in ensuring that your children are safe. This will undoubtedly mean providing honest answers to enhanced health questions this year and recognizing that an onsite program will have limitations that have not existed in previous years.

I know everyone will have questions going forward, but we are unlikely to have any specific plans in place before the release of finalists/alternates on April 3rd.

Thank you for your time, and we wish you and your loved ones all the best as we all work towards the same goal of a safe and healthy future.