

March 12, 2020

Dear CIR Community,

The health and safety of everyone in our community – members, guests, speakers, and staff – is our highest priority. As the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread, we wish to provide you with an overview of how the Santa Fe Council on International Relations (CIR) will respond to the risk of disease. *Given that the COVID-19 situation is evolving so rapidly, we expect to update this response on a weekly basis.*

First, the Department of State has, as of this morning, placed its International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) on a “temporary pause”. There will be no international visitors in Santa Fe for March and April until the situation can be reassessed.

Second, we are also placing our community education programs on a temporary pause. We will work to reschedule the following events at such time as this pause can be lifted and are also looking into developing a suite of livestreaming events. For those of you who have already bought tickets to any of these events, we’d be happy to extend you a credit to a future event for the exact amount of the ticket price.

- March 17. The Limits of Internet Growth, with Katie Singer.
- March 19, 2020: Stephen Younger, former director of Sandia National Labs on *A Century of Arms Control*.
- March 23, 2020: New Member Reception.
- March 26, 2020: Dr. Sig Hecker, former director of Los Alamos National Labs with *2020: North Korea and Iran*.
- April 7, 2020: *Great Decisions: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking*. Speaker: Lynn Sanchez
- April 21, 2020: *Great Decisions: China’s Road into Latin America*. Speaker: Todd Greentree.
- April 28, 2020: *Great Decisions: U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle*.

Third, the CIR offices will close as of Friday, March 13th and will reopen when we deem the risk has passed. Our phone lines will be monitored, as will our mail, and as staff will be working from home, you can contact any of us via email. We believe this kind of social distancing is crucial to the health of our community, and supports New Mexico's broader efforts to contain and slow transmission.

We offer our heartfelt apologies for these changes, and of course our greatest sympathy to those already affected by the disease. Like all of you, we hope for the speedy passage of the virus so that our operations may resume.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandy Campbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sandy" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Campbell".

Sandy Campbell
Executive Director

Santa Fe Council on International Relations
sandy@sfcir.org * 505-982-4931