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### WFAA Issues Statement on Status of 2020 Programming

Washington-WFAA President Samuel L. Williams and the Board of Directors along with N. Denise Wilson-Taylor, Special Advisor to the Board of Directors, issued the following statement regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and its effect on the future WFAA and events:

“The health and wellness of the Washington Fisk Alumni Association (WFAA) membership is extremely important to us. As the coronavirus spreads it impacts our daily lives and routines, the WFAA will continue to adhere to the guidance of local and national health authorities.

Fortunately for us, collectively and individually, as a group we have never lived through a pandemic and so we have no blueprint as to the duration, the consequences, or the devastation. We have in recent memory lived through epidemics, i.e., SARS, H1N1, Ebola, etc. However, with the latter epidemics, we had responsible and competent leadership at the top levels of our government. With this pandemic, as with other current challenges of the day, we simply do not have competent leadership at the helm. The fact that our leadership has approached this pandemic as a hoax that will simply go away sooner than later when people are dying daily explains the magnitude of why we were not prepared for this as a country. Historically, the US has led the way for these types of worldwide health issues but this time, we were not only ill prepared, we were not prepared at all.

The seriousness of this pandemic is complicated by what our government is NOT telling us, the outright refusal or inability to test in large numbers, and the inconsistent communication about the precautions and next steps of what should be done to prevent more widespread cases of the disease. As a consequence, we as responsible members of this country have to take it upon ourselves to protect ourselves. And although only large gatherings are being cancelled or postponed at this time, because of the inadequate testing, some people are walking around with the disease, asymptomatic, and are spreading it to the general population, which invariably consists of some very vulnerable people.

As of today, all activities with the exception of teleconferences/phone conferences will be postponed or delayed until further notice in concert with the postponement of activities with the General Alumni Association of Fisk University (GAAFU) and Fisk University. Please stay tuned to WFAA's, GAAFU's or Fisk University's social media platforms and websites for any new updates or changes.

For more information, visit [wfaaonline.org](http://wfaaonline.org).