



AAG

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
of GEOGRAPHERS

AAG COVID-19 Rapid Response Task Force Will Support Geographers

COVID-19 is the crisis of our lifetime with repercussions we may not fully understand for years. In this uncertain environment, the work of geographers is more prominent and crucial than ever. However, our field is also more at risk than ever because of COVID-19's public health and economic impacts to universities and the field at large.

Today, AAG announces the COVID-19 Rapid Response Task Force to address the impact of this crisis on the teaching and practice of geography. The Task Force aims to bring support to its members: students, educators, and professional geographers in government and the private sector.

The nature of this challenge demands that we act now. The Task Force will be composed of a steering committee and subcommittees that will develop proposals for meaningful interventions over the next few weeks to answer this question: *What can AAG do to address the systemic crisis facing geographers and geography?*

In addition to the work of the Steering Committee and subcommittees, AAG will create a Blue Ribbon Panel to evaluate proposals and make recommendations. The AAG Council will meet in June to adopt proposals.

We seek 40+ participants who can work with us in May to contribute insight, knowledge, and ideas across a wide range of the geography community. Not only mid- and late-career members, but also students and new professionals; not only geographers in academia but also working geographers in all phases of their careers and from all subdisciplines. We want to ensure that our work is representative of and relevant to all geographers. If you would like to participate in this effort, please **apply to volunteer** by **noon (Eastern Daylight Time) this Tuesday, April 28**.

Responding to COVID-19 will leverage and connect to AAG's ongoing work to strengthen academic departments, develop a robust workforce across sectors, support individual members, and advance the relevance of geography in the minds of decision-makers and the public. This is not business as usual, and neither is our response. Our COVID-19 Rapid Response Task Force will tap into the expertise of its membership to identify solutions that provide relief, so that geographers can learn, work, and flourish in a thriving field, even during these precarious times.

Stay safe, stay home when you can, and know that we are working for you.

Gary M. Langham
AAG Executive Director

David H. Kaplan
AAG President