I hope this email finds you and your family well, considering all that’s happening in The Bronx, NYC, and around the world. This pandemic is magnifying, amplifying, and compounding existing disparities, and we are witnessing this first-hand in The Bronx and NYC. As the HERE to HERE team works to address new COVID-related challenges, we are doing so with a steadfast focus on our vision of a thriving, inclusive economy, in The Bronx and elsewhere, driven by meaningful partnerships between young people and employers.

Here’s what we’ve been up to the last few weeks to partner and support The Bronx community, the 30+ schools in our networks and the students we serve, and CUNY and its students. For more detail on any of the below, you can visit our COVID-19 page on the HERE to HERE website.

The Bronx

- The Bronx Community Relief Effort: HERE to HERE has joined a broad coalition of Bronx community leaders, including government officials, nonprofits, residents, and small businesses, to launch The Bronx Community Relief Effort which is supporting eight focus areas. HERE to HERE, in partnership with others, is taking a lead role in three of the eight areas: Food Security; Education, Technology, and Connectivity; and Microgrants, specifically for CUNY students.

- HERE to HERES’s The Bronx PIC and a number of its members have partnered with World Central Kitchen to leverage food relief efforts. These efforts activate local Bronx restaurants and
distributors to maximize local employment as well as community aid to first responders, families, and individuals in need.

- We’ve also partnered with several PIC members to develop and staff another key effort, RAP4Bronx (Relief Access Program for The Bronx). Led by PIC members York Studios, Andromeda, Mott Haven Bar & Grill, Baldor, and Great Performances, RAP4Bronx collects and donates meals, food, and essential supplies to help frontline workers, families, seniors, and vulnerable residents in The Bronx area.

- After several weeks of efforts, World Central Kitchen and RAP4Bronx programs have collectively served more than 20,000 meals and 1,160 of groceries to the local community.

- HERE to HERE is working closely with DreamYard to secure devices and tech support for Bronx high school students. With financial support from The Dimon Foundation, we have purchased more than 600 Chromebooks and hotspots for our 30+ partner schools to meet the technology gap facing students.

- We are also working to create over 200 virtual internships this summer for students in our network schools in partnership with a select group of community-based organizations.

To learn more about our work in The Bronx community, click here.

Network high schools and the students we serve

- Following the Mayor’s cancellation of SYEP, HERE to HERE launched the #SaveSYEP Campaign ...which I’m glad to report is starting to work! We have been working a coalition of leading organizations to make sure students have access to virtual internships this summer. To see coverage of our efforts, click here.

- We are listening intently and supporting our network schools with the transition to virtual learning. This assistance includes supporting the transition to the implementation of a virtual work-based learning curriculum, developing virtual internships and apprenticeships, creating this resource guide, and addressing other needs as they arise.

- Last week we published an analysis of an online survey that was administered through HERE to HERE’s Student Ambassadors and completed by nearly 180 students across over a dozen schools. You can review our findings here.
• In the midst of this, I’m happy to share that after working closely with NYC DOE, we’ve been able to transition CareerWise New York apprenticeships to remote work. All apprentices will return to work on May 1. Thank you to our employer partners who ensured that all apprentices continued to receive payment during the 6-week period during which DOE requested to focus on the city’s transition to online learning.

• We’ve been able to move forward with student recruitment for Cohort 2! You can find all CareerWise New York COVID-related updates, including details on the above, [online here](#).

For more information on our work with our network schools and the students we serve, click [here](#).

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**CUNY and its students**

• In partnership with CUNY and The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation, HERE to HERE launched the [Chancellor’s Emergency Relief Fund for Students](#). Here is [CUNY’s LinkedIn video](#) and the [donation site](#).

• The fund is now open and first-round awards have been sent to qualifying students. 4,700 students opted in within 12 hours of receiving the initial email, 2,000 students have received $500 grants to date, and CUNY plans to make another round of awards in May. Inspired by the initial gifts from Petrie and Dimon Foundation, CUNY has received an additional $80,000 through online donations, including gifts from 250 new donors.

• CUNY and its students are the heart and future of New York City. HERE to HERE is working with CUNY’s Career Success team to make sure CUNY and its students are recognized as an essential partner and contributor to the NYC COVID-19 response and the city’s economic recovery.

To learn more about this important partnership with CUNY, click [here](#).
Through this pandemic, we remain deeply committed to the safety and welfare of all Bronx and NYC students. By putting our talents and resources together, our students, businesses, and community as a whole can emerge stronger—and our economy can be more inclusive.

There are a lot of challenges that come with this crisis, but we also know that crises can drive important change. Many systems in our community, including education and talent development, have been set in concrete. Right now, these systems have become much more fluid. We must not revert back to the inequitable ways of the past that don’t always serve Bronx and NYC public school students, or our City, well. It is our job to invest in thoughtful planning, partnerships, and actions now, so we can rebuild better, more equitable systems that promote students' professional and personal success.

On behalf of the HERE to HERE team, we thank you for your continued collaboration and support. If you’d like to learn more or join our efforts, please contact us at info@heretohere.org.

In partnership and gratitude,

Abby