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ACADEMIC  
AFFAIRS

## The Digital Divide: Mitigation Strategies

March 25, 2020 - 11:15 AM - 12:45 PM ET

Speakers:

- Jennifer Cowley, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of North Texas
- Jacqueline Huntoon, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Michigan Technological University
- Rick Miranda, Provost and Executive Vice President, Colorado State University - Chair Council on Academic Affairs
- Jonathan Wickert, Senior Vice President and Provost, Iowa State University

As universities move to online environments for teaching and learning in response to the coronavirus, large numbers of our students face serious challenges in using this technology through no fault of their own. These are students who have no or limited access to the internet or computer equipment, or even if they have a computer with internet connectivity, they may not have suitable space for doing the work.

The goal of this CAA session is to provide an opportunity for provosts to discuss their institutional challenges, present strategies that have been tried (even if they have not demonstrated success), and brainstorm innovative ideas for addressing this very important challenge. We strongly encourage provosts who are seeking guidance in this and any other issues of current interest, and those who believe they have met with some success in this area, to join the discussion.

Our goals for this session are to:

- Develop a list of effective strategies for minimizing the negative effects of the digital divide for access-challenged students.
- Encourage the formation of learning communities among our members to tackle this important problem leading to other innovative strategies for now and future emergencies.
- Provide a forum for provosts to discuss other issues of interest in dealing with the current emergency.

Please use this [shared document](#) to share problems your institution has encountered, solutions it has implemented, and/or resources it has developed related to the digital divide while transitioning to online instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please include your name and institution with the information that you share.

Finally, APLU would like to be as helpful as possible to assist our institutions in this difficult time as you face a host of challenges and tasks. As you already know, we have developed a [web page](#) with links to university communications, governmental guidance, and how our members are dealing with teaching and learning in this new environment. This resource is updated almost daily so we encourage you to check it out often. For instance there is up-to-date information on guidelines from federal funding agencies.