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To our ADE CTSO Arizona Administrators, Directors and Advisers,

In light of the current health issues and concerns resulting from the coronavirus (COVID-19), Arizona FBLA, HOSA, FCCLA, and SkillsUSA have made the difficult decision to drastically alter the manner in which our 2020 State Leadership Conferences will be conducted. To avoid the potential spread of the virus during this uncertain time, we have elected to hold a "virtual" conference, as are many other states, effectively eliminating travel and large gatherings from the logistical nature of the event. While a variety of factors influenced this decision, be assured that the health and safety of our students and stakeholders is always our primary concern.

What we anticipate at this point, for a virtual conference is an altered structure that will rely heavily on video (both live and recorded). We're working with our business partners and stakeholders to come up with as many opportunities for contests as we possibly can. Our State Advisers are consulting with other states that have implemented this process and are committed to providing the best possible virtual conference that they can. Although this is far from the conference we all envisioned and planned for, our goal is to provide an event that will still recognize our students, leaders, advisors, partners and supporters while providing an opportunity to take pride in what we've accomplished this year and what we will accomplish in the future.

We realize the disappointment this will cause for so many of our dedicated students and advisers who worked hard throughout the year to get to this event. However, we also know that same dedication and work ethic — as well as so many other positive traits gained through CTSO involvement — will help all of us weather this temporary storm and emerge stronger when this crisis inevitably clears.

Please remain connected with us on each one of the CTSO websites and on social media for more updates as they emerge and as we develop more specific responses and future plans. Each State Adviser will give an update through email no later than Friday, March 20, 2020 as to the status of conferences.

Thank you for everything you do and for your continued support,

**Julie Ellis**

Director, Career & Technical Student Organization (CTSOs)  
Arizona Department of Education