

news from

ASU Watts College
of Public Service and Community Solutions
Arizona State University



College news



[ASU creates tool to link nonprofit agencies during pandemic response](#)

The Center for Emergency Management and Homeland Security at ASU is working to keep Arizona's front-line nonprofit agencies connected during the COVID-19 pandemic. The center already had working relationships with organizations and agencies, so when the COVID-19 crisis hit, the team was ready to go.



[Professors' coloring book gives parents tools to help minimize kids' COVID-19 anxiety](#)

When the world found itself in the grip of COVID-19, resources for parents were few. That's part of what motivated Paige Safyer, Sara Stein, Julie Ribaldo and Kate Rosenblum to create Tender Press Books and write a coloring storybook to help children cope



[ASU survey finds state's nonprofits hit hard by pandemic recession](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic is creating huge disruption for many Arizona nonprofit organizations, which are seeing increased demand for services but plummeting revenue. A new survey of 449 nonprofits released by the Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and

with what they may see or hear about the virus and its effects.

Nonprofit Innovation at ASU captured the profound effects of the crisis and the resulting economic distress after only a few weeks.

Pandemic a 'natural experiment' for reducing incarceration, prosecutors say

America's criminal justice system was already in the process of reforming, but the COVID-19 pandemic could make further progress uncertain, especially if crime jumps when the shutdown ends, according to a panel of prosecutors who spoke at an Arizona State University event on May 6.



Christian ethicist to join SPA faculty as first Neely Visiting Professor in Religion and Public Policy

Colleen Wessel-McCoy, a specialist in Christian ethics from the Union Theological Seminary in New York City, will join the ASU School of Public Affairs faculty in August as the first holder of a visiting professorship in religion and public policy, underwritten by the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona.

Quick thinking keeps instruction going for incarcerated students in ASU's 'Inside-Out' class

The logistical challenges of teaching a class inside a state prison are complicated enough during a typical semester, let alone during a pandemic. This spring, an ASU School of Criminology and Criminal Justice professor and a doctoral student were instructing 10 campus-based students, plus 10 individuals serving time at the Arizona State Prison Complex-Florence.



ASU School of Social Work pivots quickly to aid Tucson community in crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced every kind of institution to quickly change course, but for the ASU School of Social Work, the pivot meant switching from one kind of helping to another. Social work faculty and students have been working for three years on a program to help an underprivileged



community in Tucson.



OLLI at ASU helps hundreds of active adults keep learning, connecting during pandemic

The Wolters were already big fans of the wide variety of opportunities within the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at ASU. Then the COVID-19 pandemic struck, and OLLI at ASU transformed its in-person courses to online ones in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with no break in engagement — for which the couple had reasons to be particularly grateful.

ASU college reaches out to students to hear their pandemic-related concerns

Hundreds of ASU's Watts College students recently discovered some unfamiliar numbers appearing on the screens of their ringing phones. But the callers weren't strangers. They were fellow Watts students reaching out on the college's behalf through the Watts Care Calling Campaign to find out how their fellow students were faring amid challenges wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

America needs to cultivate a culture of service to solve problems

The current COVID-19 pandemic highlights the critical need for the U.S. to develop a strong system for young people to engage in public service — much like the Public Service Academy at ASU. That was a recurring theme of several experts who participated in a virtual panel discussion titled “Meeting the Moment: The Next Generation of Service.”





Act together, not alone, to help sustain environment, SCR D professor recommends in Earth Day comments

As the nation celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day, major media also sought out Professor Mark Roseland's detailed knowledge of sustainability issues this month. His observations on the future of the environmental movement were published April 22, the exact date of the first Earth Day in 1970, in both Discover magazine and The Arizona Republic newspaper.



Law enforcement role is to support public health officials, ASU experts say

The COVID-19 pandemic will be studied for decades and likely lead to changes in law enforcement, according to panel experts who spoke at ASU's "Policing During a Pandemic." The virtual event, sponsored by the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, the School of Social Work and the Morrison Institute for Public Policy, addressed whether police departments were prepared for the pandemic and how they have adjusted.



ASU professor, family fund congressional internships for public affairs students

Throughout the more than 50 years since he received his bachelor's degree from ASU, Geoffrey Gonsler dedicated his life to public service in Arizona municipal and state government. Now, he and his family give ASU students in the School of Public Affairs, where he is a professor of practice, opportunities to prepare for public service careers by funding a program providing paid internships at the local offices of national politicians.



Virtual learning offers real-world solutions to the event industry crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic

ASU's special event management program in the School of Community Resources and Community Development prides itself on being experiential.



Donors to ASU's Bridging Success program help students overcome food insecurity

Yaritza Hernandez Gil realized she had a lot of work to do if she wanted to make it to college. She was living in Arizona's foster care system, with little family support. So Hernandez Gil knuckled down on her

Usually, students are placed at various event organizations and venues for micro-internships and are treated to behind-the-scenes tours. To keep a sense of normalcy, but not lose sight of the opportunity to learn from the current situation, students embraced the new virtual format.

studies, and ASU offered scholarship support. She was working two jobs to cover college expenses — until the pandemic forced her managers to cut her hours. Fortunately, ASU donors stepped in to provide much-needed emergency crisis funding.

In the news

[Pandemic Quieted Public Shootings, But Not Violence | The Arizona Republic](#)

Jesenia Pizarro, an associate professor in the ASU School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, said the vast majority of gun violence occurs between people who know one another and is the result of escalating disputes, adding more violence is likely to take place in residences, as more people are at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[ASU Joins UA in Tucson's Pandemic Fight | KVOA-TV \(NBC-4, Tucson\)](#)

ASU's School of Social Work - Tucson has increased its service to inner city Tucson residents in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. SSW is partnering with colleagues from the University of Arizona and other volunteer groups to augment the "Thrive in the '05" program, serving residents living in an area with the 85705 ZIP Code.

[Some Arizona Nonprofits May Not Overcome Virus-Driven Losses | The Associated Press](#)

Nearly half of nonprofits in Arizona will be unable to serve the public within the next month due to revenue and volunteer staffing losses related to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a survey conducted by ASU's Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation, headed by director Robert Ashcraft.

An assistant professor in the School of Social Work, Paige Safyer is co-author of a coloring book designed to help children understand the COVID-19 pandemic and alleviate their fears. Safyer was interviewed by local media about the book and its upcoming sequel, which will deal with what kids should know as stay-at-home restrictions are lifted.

A new poll by the ASU Morrison Institute for Public Policy reported findings about how Arizonans have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, as well as their readiness to reopen. The poll shows divided opinions between political ideologies, levels of education, income, age and gender.

- [Georgie and the Giant Germ Helps Kids \(And Parents\) Process COVID-19 Anxiety | Raising Arizona Kids Magazine](#)
- [Coloring a COVID-19 Explanation | Good Morning Arizona, KTVK-TV](#)
- [Coloring book helps parents explain COVID-19 to their kids | KTAR-FM](#)

- [Reopening Arizona: Not Ready to Get Back Out There? New Poll Says You're Not Alone | The Arizona Republic](#)
- [Poll: 40% of Arizonans Facing Struggles Since Start of Pandemic | KJZZ-FM](#)
- [Households Hurt Financially by COVID-19, Poll Says | KTAR-FM](#)

[Summer Travel Not Possible Right Now | KJZZ-FM](#)

Arizonans are more likely this year to travel by car to vacation over Memorial Day weekend and other summer vacation times, and do more outdoor activities such as picnics, Christine Vogt, director of the Center for Sustainable Tourism and professor in the ASU School of Community Resources and Development, told KJZZ-FM's The Show.

[| Behavioral Scientist](#)

Government orders that sent nearly 4 billion people to shelter at home and maintain physical distancing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic "have also put open and democratic societies in a bind," writes Associate Professor Adam Fine of the ASU School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, co-author of an article published in Behavioral Scientist.

[Lockdowns? | The Conversation](#)

ASU School of Public Affairs associate professor and director of the Center for Urban Innovation, David Swindell, discusses the factors that influence who actually has the power to make binding decisions, like when to reopen cities and states. [Also published in Yahoo! News, MSN.com, snopes.com, Houston Chronicle, Stamford Advocate, TheStreet.com and more news outlets nationwide]

Announcements

► [Tech Training deadline fast approaching](#)

REMINDER: Complete your information security training as mandated by Arizona State University.

Watts College needs to ensure a 100% completion rate for all employees, and the university's deadline is fast approaching. It only takes a short time and a brief 15-question quiz to [complete the training](#). Also, the study guide is VERY helpful, and the training won't take much of your time.

Our participation rate is still low compared to other units. So if you still need to take this year's training, please [complete it now](#).

► [Summer 2020 student promos](#)

- [A special offer for first-responders & essential workers](#) that covers the cost of graduate program application fees through the end of June
- A one-of-a-kind collection of COVID-19 related courses
- Many interesting courses that are open to our own students as well as students from other universities where online classes are not available over the summer
- Special discounts for new ASU students, transfer students, out-of-state & international students, and spring 2020 ASU grads

[Learn more about our summer promotions here.](#)

► [Disability Resource Center Lunch & Learn series](#)

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is offering a series of Lunch & Learn events to support faculty and staff who interface with students with disabilities.

[Click here for a list of topics, dates, times and more information.](#)

Awards/Achievements

► [School of Criminology and Criminal Justice alumni awards](#)

To recognize alumni of the ASU School of Criminology and Criminal Justice who have engaged their communities in exceptional ways, the School proudly [announces its 2020 alumni awards](#).

Dr. Marie Griffin Distinguished Alumni Award: Ben Henry

The Dr. Marie Griffin Distinguished Alumni Award, which is given each year to a practitioner in one of the justice professions, is in memory of beloved School of Criminology and Criminal Justice professor Marie Griffin. This distinguished award is given to Ben Henry, deputy director, Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training (AZPOST).

Alumni Scholar Award: Eryn Nicole O'Neal

The Alumni Scholar Award is presented to Eryn Nicole O'Neal, assistant professor at Sam Houston State University. Eryn is an ASU 2016 PhD graduate in criminology and criminal justice who has compiled an outstanding record of research and scholarship in a very short time period.

Early Career Excellence Award: Lt. Leonard Redhorse III

This year's recipient of the alumni award for Early Career Excellence is Police Lt. Leonard Redhorse III (MA 2016) of the Navajo Nation Police Department (NPD). He was recognized for his significant contributions to the NPD's large vision that focuses on improving services and vetting strategies for justice program deliveries.

► [School of Public Affairs Doctoral Awards & Placements](#)

2020 Doctoral Student Awards:

- Outstanding Paper by a Doctoral Student: **Seongkyung Cho**
- Outstanding Instruction by a Doctoral Student: **David Selby**
- Outstanding Doctoral Student: **Leonor Camarena**

Doctoral graduate placements:

- **Leonor Camarena**, assistant professor, Rutgers University Newark ([Read more](#))
- **Jiwon Jung**, Assistant professor, City University Hong Kong
- **Fengxiu Zhang**, Assistant professor, George Mason University ([Read more](#))

► [School of Social Work alumni recognized](#)

Throughout a more than 30-year career, alum **Kelly Huey**, who received the **2020 Director's Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession** from ASU's School of Social Work, has demonstrated the impact social workers can have in hospitals and hospice care. Huey earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the School of Social Work. [Learn more.](#)

Richard Berg, who graduated with his MSW from ASU in 2015, received the **Early Career Achievement Award**, recognizing a graduate from five years ago or fewer whose achievements in the social work profession promote the general welfare of all people. Berg took over managing a Camp Colley Foundation that holds an annual summer camp for disadvantaged youth and expanded its offerings to include year-round programs in Phoenix. [Learn more.](#)

Erik Larson worked as an intern for Camp Colley Foundation, learning and applying fundraising and program evaluation skills that he said led him to choose program development as his career. He graduated with his MSW in May, and received the school's **Outstanding Intern Award**, which recognizes a student who has made outstanding contributions to an agency or organization while still in training. [Learn more.](#)

Events

[Meeting the Moment: Impacted Communities](#)

Session 3: Children and Families
Friday, May 29 at 2 p.m.

[Meeting the Moment: Impacted Communities](#)

Session 4: The Criminal Justice System
Friday, June 5 at 2 p.m.



publicservice.asu.edu

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