

Spring 2020 Up to Us Competition Updates and resources

The Up to Us team recognizes the stresses and uncertainties that many of our community members are experiencing in response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic. To prioritize the health and safety of our competition participants during this difficult time, the Up to Us Spring Competition will be formally discontinued in its current format (i.e. you will no longer be required to attend webinars, manage your team, or host a Capstone event). To recognize all teams' dedicated efforts and hard work in this Spring competition, we are providing the opportunity to *voluntarily continue your digital impact* with Up to Us through Digital Engagements.

How to continue Digital Engagements with Up to Us

Great public awareness campaigns are agile and responsive to their surroundings. Therefore, Up to Us Digital Engagements should reflect the main issue of the day: the current public health emergency of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic warrants an unprecedented response from both our economic and health institutions. While the economic impacts of this global health emergency will be severe, the priority is our collective public health. Top economists are in agreement that the best resolution to prioritize our health, as well as reduce our long-term economic risk, is to aggressively tackle this pandemic with the increased spending of the \$2.3 trillion stimulus package, known as the CARES Act.

"The country would be in a much better position right now if our debt and deficits weren't already at such high levels, but our current fiscal outlook should not impede the response to this emergency."

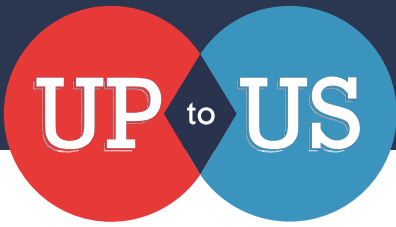
- **Michael A. Peterson, CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation**

The purpose of collaborating with the next generation of leaders – you – in raising public awareness about the impacts of a high national debt, is so that in times of crisis, we can respond with increased spending. This is one of those times.

Examples of Digital Engagements— How to engage

- Create a Facebook or Instagram Live event or share social media content exploring the questions below:
 - *How can fiscal policy help during a COVID-19 recession?* [See link for more details](#)
 - *What's in the \$2.3 trillion dollar stimulus package?* [See link for more details](#)
 - *What is the impact of COVID-19 relief package on student loans?* [See link for more details](#)
 - We will also continue to share more resources and updates on our [blog](#) and social channels over the coming days and weeks that you can use in your content. Keep an eye out for those!
- Create an original piece in either a 30-60 second video OR 400-800 word article answering the following prompt: *Right now, \$389 billion dollars in interest is paid on the national debt. Given current global events, how would you decide to invest those funds and why?* Submit your piece on our [website](#) and be automatically entered for prizes valued at \$500+.
- Offer your digital following a break from quarantine and have them take the [Fiscal Digital Trivia Quiz!](#)
- Continue to urge your elected officials to take action on behalf of the needs and priorities of our generation. [Take the Pledge!](#)

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Updated Prizes & Perks for Spring 2020 Competition Participants

All teams that continue with Up to Us Digital Engagements and **submit the [Digital Engagements Results](#) on April 17** will automatically be eligible for the following opportunities:

- Paid internship opportunities with Net Impact and the Ronald Reagan's Leadership and the American Presidency (Note: applications are closed. If you submitted your application, your application will not be impacted on these changes.)
- Harvard Business School Online Courses scholarship (application deadline extended April 15th, 2020)
- \$5,000 Civic Engagement Fellowship (application deadline May 5th, 2020)
- Priority access to next year's Up to Us Competition (Fall or Spring cohort)
- Acclaim Badge with a certification of completion

With the Up to Us Spring Competition format discontinued, the running to win the \$10,000 grand cash prize is also discontinued. As a replacement, we will provide awards of distinction to teams in the following categories:

- \$1,000 cash prize to the team who collected the highest # of pledges + DC Trip Invite*
- \$1,000 cash prize to team with most creative digital engagement + DC Trip Invite*
- \$1,000 cash prize to the team who had the highest media engagement + DC Trip Invite*
- \$5,000 "Campaign of Distinction" Award

*The DC Trip is subject to change in format due to COVID-19 restrictions with in-person gatherings.

Team leaders and members should connect with Rita rbernardo@netimpact.org for more information.

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