Dear IACBE Members and Friends

I want to begin by saying how much I appreciate the support I have gotten over the past week from my IACBE family. It was a very difficult decision to move the annual conference from face-to-face in Dallas to a virtual format, but for the safety of or members and friends it was the right decision.

I have worked since Thursday with our presenters, exhibitors, and major sponsor - Peregrine Global Services to put together a virtual conference that retains the spirit of our face-to-face conference. Eighteen of our original presenters have agreed to move forward and present at the virtual conference, so we have a full schedule. The virtual conference is available to all our members (faculty, staff, and administration) at no charge on April 1 and 2, 2020. I also encourage you to invite a friend from another institution to share this opportunity with us. A copy of the schedule is attached and the most up-to-date schedule will be available on our website on the Annual Conference page.

Since many of you had already planned to attend the conference, you will find the schedule to be very similar to the face-to-face schedule. The key to the success of the virtual conference is for you to attend and to let others at your institution know that this is an opportunity for them to engage in professional development at no cost.

As we get closer to the conference, I will send out additional details on how to register and how log-in to the presentations. Besides the presentations you will have an opportunity to visit virtual exhibit booths for Peregrine Global Services and for Interpretive Simulations where you can ask questions and view products and services. In additions, we are working with Peregrine on a “scavenger hunt” with some great prizes – blue tooth ear buds, mouse pads, and as a grand prize – a gift card – more details to come as we finalize the “ scavenger hunt”.

Each year we work to support a local charity, for Dallas we were planning to raise funds for [MetroCrest Services](https://www.metrocrestservices.org/about.php). MetroCrest is a non-profit that providesb**asic services including rent and utility bill aid, financial and budgeting assistance, and food for those in the local community. While we will no longer be in Dallas, with the current situation they still need our help. Please consider donating to support their work. We will begin accepting donations via our Facebook page on Monday, March 23-Friday, April 3, 2020. As a bonus, the Peregrine Global Foundation has committed to a matching grant up to $2,500 so any amount we collect up to $2,500 will be doubled.**

If your school has a team participating in the case competition – thank you for sticking with it – While the case that the students are working on is important, their ability to be agile and adapt to change is one of the skills most sought after by employers. Encourage them to persist as this is how success in business is most often gained.

Finally – thank you again for your unwavering support of the IACBE – “see” you at the Virtual Annual Conference on April 1-2, 2020.

Phyllis