

# The Friday Five



## Take Five Minutes for College Updates

We're continuing to bring you College news and opportunities to interact with other staff members and teams. Previous communications can be found on the [staff resources page](#).

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## Juneteenth

Long celebrated as an Independence Day in the African American community, Juneteenth (June 19) commemorates the date, 155 years ago, that enslaved people in Texas received word of their emancipation in accordance with the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth offers a day to recognize and reflect on the significance of this important event at a time when our country is reckoning with the struggle for racial equity for all.

We encourage you to learn more and get involved in the many ways in which

members of the Columbia community are advancing the cause of racial justice. Our colleagues in the Office of University Life have created a [resource page](#), curated in partnership with Columbia Libraries, that features books, articles, videos and other media focusing on systemic racism in this country. Additionally, you may be interested in learning more about the [Columbia University & Slavery](#) project and our institutional efforts to “contribute to public understanding of the key role slavery has played in our nation’s history and offer an example to other institutions of higher learning as they pursue their own investigations.”

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## What’s Happening

*Get program updates from teams and departments  
and news about on-campus developments.*

### Pre-Orientation Programs

Earlier this month, [Columbia Outdoor Orientation Program](#) (COÖP) and [Columbia Urban Experience](#) (CUE) were cancelled for Fall 2020. Although it is possible that current public health and travel restrictions may be lifted by mid-August, these programs require staff and student coordinators to travel and conduct site visits throughout the summer. Also, many of our external partner organizations are unsure of their ability to re-open this fall. [International Student Orientation Program](#) (ISOP) will still run, with modified programming being developed.

### Countdown to Columbia

Columbia College and Columbia Engineering typically reach out to incoming students throughout the summer with a weekly newsletter, “Countdown to Columbia.” This year we are expanding our outreach to the Class of 2024 with earlier and more frequent engagement. In addition to the newsletter, programming traditionally introduced during the New Student Orientation Program (NSOP) week will be held earlier in the summer to establish connections to staff, other students, and resources.

For the eight weeks leading up to NSOP (last week of August), the newsletters will focus on four themes: Academics, Life as a Columbia Student, The Columbia Community and Life Beyond the Gates. Concurrent virtual programming will connect students to themes as they are introduced. For example, an Academics webinar will be provided in the same week that theme is introduced. The following week, optional themed webinars that appeal to specific interests or identities will be offered.

In July, advising deans in the Center for Student Advising will schedule individual virtual appointments and Orientation Leaders will connect with their assigned groups and individual students.

## **New Student Orientation Program**

We are currently working to determine how NSOP programming will change in August, and will share more as guidance is provided by the University about which activities may take place on-campus at that time.

## **Summer Funding Programs and Work Exemption Program (WEP)**

The [Summer Funding Programs](#) support Columbia College and Columbia Engineering undergraduate students who have secured unpaid or low-paid summer internships. Recipients receive stipends ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 based on the nature of the internship and demonstrated student need. Summer Funding Programs are supported by generous donations from alumni.

In addition, some students are eligible to receive a WEP grant that waives their summer earnings expectation. CCE partnered with offices in both schools to review this summer's applicant pool. CCE would like to extend a huge thank you to CCIT who worked tirelessly to transition the application process into Salesforce!

We are pleased to report that 145 CC students and 22 SEAS students received summer funding awards, and 109 CC students and 20 SEAS students received WEP grants. Student internships this summer spanned numerous industries including the arts, research, social entrepreneurship, government and technology. To comply with current University guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic, essentially all of the supported opportunities are remote.

## **Summer 2020 Earnings Grant**

In response to the challenges of securing summer employment due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Columbia College and Columbia Engineering have secured funding to create a special one-time [Summer Earnings Grant](#) that will offset the traditional summer earnings expectation component of financial aid packages for some students. The grant application process is open to all incoming students and continuing undergraduates.

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## **Stay Connected**

*Develop competencies to build a justice-oriented community.*

### **Zoom@Noon**

As shared last week, Multicultural Affairs will bring its [Identity & Inclusion Series](#) to

Zoom@Noon. Two Columbia College staff-only sessions are scheduled: Anti-Racism (Thursday, July 16, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.) and Unconscious Bias (Wednesday, July 22, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.). You can register at [cc-seas.columbia.edu/InclusionSeries](https://cc-seas.columbia.edu/InclusionSeries).

***Registration for each session will be capped to maintain a communal environment for discussion, so please only register for workshops that you will commit to attending.***

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