Community Engagement and COVID-19: A Time to Step Up, Not Back

Alicia Luke is a patient health educator at a local health center. By combining her role with the Outreach and Engagement Office, she provides a unique perspective on how student engagement can be maximized even during challenging times.

In her role, Luke has been able to connect with students through various virtual platforms. This includes organizing small groups, workshops, and webinars, which have been well-received by the student body.

"It's been amazing to see how much students are engaged and interested in learning about the importance of community engagement," Luke said. "Even though we're all working remotely, there's a real sense of community and purpose.

"I've had the opportunity to lead some virtual events that have been really successful. I've seen a lot of interest from students who are looking for ways to get involved and make a difference in their community."

Luke encourages students to think creatively about how they can engage with their community, even if it's through virtual means. "There are so many opportunities to make an impact," she said. "It's just a matter of finding the right approach and reaching out to the people who can help make it happen.

"I've been really impressed with the level of interest and enthusiasm among students," she added. "I think we're all feeling a little bit of a loss with not being able to engage in person, but there's a lot of energy and creativity coming through the virtual world."

"I'm really looking forward to seeing how we can continue to expand these opportunities in the future," Luke concluded. "I think we have a lot of potential to make a big impact, even during this time of uncertainty."