

Leading Through Disruption Video Transcript: How Can Students Solve Fall 2020 Challenges?



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Hi, I'm Amy VanDerWerf Carroll, Senior Consultant for Student Success at Credo.

Our team recently wrapped up a Leading Through Disruption interview and survey series with college presidents from across the country.

As a result, we created a handful of resources based on what we heard including ways to ensure a diversity of voices in decision making processes. One of these tools is a resource to create ways to hear directly from your students and to harness their expertise to solve challenges your campuses may be facing.

I have been thinking about campuses across the country as fall semester has officially begun and the plans that you all -- administrators, faculty, and staff worked hard on all summer have been put into motion. Here's what we know -- whether students have returned to your campus for in-person classes, attending remotely, or a hybrid version, the experiences this fall will be extremely different than any other semester before.

Also, throughout the summer and as the semester has begun, you have needed to communicate to students and parents ways you are keeping students safe by detailing new policies and procedures related to the spread of COVID-19. While the restrictions in place on your campuses are necessary for campus safety, it is important to look for ways to say yes and model what students can do to create community even within the boundaries in place this fall.

In July we shared a resource called the Students as Fellow Experts (or S.A.F.E.) Initiative – a template for you to use to hear directly from students about ways to create the best experience this fall. As I have talked with some of you who have been implementing this initiative on your campuses, I was reminded again and again of the creativity of students as well as their strong commitment to their campuses. I was also reminded that this initiative will continue to be beneficial throughout this fall semester and beyond as our new realities continue to evolve.



I wanted to reach out to you all and say – now is the time to create meaningful ways to learn from your students and their ideas about how to create a deeper sense of belonging or other hurdles your campus may be facing that influence student success. Even though the semester has begun, it is not too late to implement this program on your campuses - in fact, this is a program that can be used on an ongoing basis to involve students as well as provide a professional development experience for students.

We know many of you may have already downloaded this template and others may be downloading if for the first time. On the link to the SAFE initiative page you will find the template as well as additional resources to implement this on your campuses.

If you would like to brainstorm ways to use this on your campus or would like to talk more about student success, please reach out to me via my email, phone or on the Credo website. We plan to continue this series as we partner, listen, and work with campuses to navigate the extraordinary complexity of decision making in this time.

Our multidisciplinary team of Student Success, Leadership Strategies, Enrollment Solutions, and Campus Planning & Architecture look forward to sharing insights, as well as learning from you about what is going well and where and how Credo can help you practically and strategically pivot toward innovation and building a sustainable future.

Take care.