



Wednesday, March 3 2021

Dear AEE Community,

We are going to be **virtual** again for our **International Conference November 11-14, 2021**.

We'll give you a minute to process that...

For some of you there will be a feeling of disappointment. For some a sense of relief or pleasure. For some all three. We know. And we are feeling all of these emotions also.

We took many factors into consideration to come to this decision:

- The continuing restrictions on large gatherings and travel due to the pandemic
- The long-term financial impacts of the pandemic on individuals and organizations
- The goal of making AEE a more equitable and inclusive community
- The success of our past virtual events
- The AEE staff workload
- The preparation and planning of a truly unique and amazing event for the 2022 50th Anniversary
- And most importantly, the input from you - AEE's members

Based on the recent member survey:

- Only **13% of our membership indicated an interest in attending an in-person conference** this Fall.

Additionally, we received an overwhelmingly positive response from our 2020 post-conference survey:

- **99% of attendees indicated that they would be interested in attending a virtual AEE conference again.**

We were joined by over **700 attendees from 32 countries**, the most geographically diverse attendee representation in AEE Conference history. Going virtual meant that we could offer an equitable pricing structure, which we will offer again this year.

We will also:

- **Deliver virtual versions of our favorite traditions** like the Marina Ewald & Kurt Hahn address, the Symposium on Experiential Education Research (SEER), ActivatEE, and more.
- Support our workshop presenters to **deliver engaging and educational presentations**.
- Provide many **networking and debrief opportunities**.
- Bring in **new and exciting sessions**.

We welcome your thoughts and suggestions on how we can make this conference even better than last year. And how we can make it more inviting for those of you who chose not to attend. This conference is for you - so let us know what you want. Please reach out to Sherry at sherry@aee.org with ideas, links, suggestions, etc.

Additionally, we are considering hosting a smaller in-person event, which would focus on connecting and networking. We hope to host this at one of our Accredited/Organizational Member locations or a site with whom we can partner. If you would like to help with the inception of this event, please let us know.

Other in-person events for 2021 may still take place such as the TAPG Best Practices Conference and we can hopefully look forward to in-person Regional conferences in the Spring of 2022. We will continue to evaluate the situation and follow safety guidelines.

We have a tremendous amount of appreciation to you all for your patience and support of AEE throughout this difficult year. We thank you for reminding us every day why this work we do is so important. The amount of sharing, connection, and support we've seen in this community over the past year has been inspiring and is a testament to the field of Experiential Education and the folk within it.

Over the coming weeks, we will be sending out a **call for volunteers, open our call for proposals**, and much more. Please be on the lookout for announcements on our website, social media channels, and through email. **In the meantime, [you can learn more about and see our 2021 conference theme here](#).**

We are excited to see what this community can create together!

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Stay safe and be well,

Sherry & Anna