Dear ASERVIC Members,

It is with great sadness that we write to notify you that we have decided to cancel this summer’s 2020 conference in Columbus, Ohio. Although we have known this was likely for a while, we hoped to work with the venue, the Hilton at Easton, to provide some possible alternatives. Unfortunately, that did not happen.

Before providing more details, I want to extend all my gratitude to Drs. Vicki Geigerich and Andrew Wood who served as Co-Chairs for this conference. They worked tirelessly until the end to plan a conference that served our membership and highlighted the exciting things happening in Ohio-ASERVIC. Please offer them your thanks when you have an opportunity.

Now, what does this mean for ASERVIC? First, ASERVIC leadership felt it was important for our membership to be assured they could cancel hotel reservations without penalty, and as the host hotel was unable to renegotiate the contract to offer assurances of that after the June 1st deadline, we felt the need to cancel now. The hotel refused to renegotiate the contract as the current ban on large gatherings in Ohio only extends through May 31st.

As such, ASERVIC will be taking on the full cost of this conference. It is our hope that, as ASERVIC members, you will see minimal impact from this. We are suspending all travel for 2020-2021 for ASERVIC Leadership. In addition, we will be suspending the Awards program for 2020 and 2021, and the Emerging Leaders Program for 2021-2022. Lastly, we will not have a presence at the 2021 ACA Conference. By suspending these activities, we will come close to regaining the losses from this cancellation.

We know some of our presenters were excited about the possibility of presenting their work. We will be hosting a virtual conference webinar series. This will be a special series of webinars, outside of our quarterly offerings, from accepted conference proposals, so I hope you will be on the lookout for these opportunities.

In closing, although we know this was the right decision, we are saddened and will miss our time together. If you have already registered for the conference, we will be issuing full refunds. If you made a hotel reservation with the Easton, please cancel your reservation by June 1st. Finally, we hope to gather, again, in 2021 in Pittsburgh. Until then, we are grateful for the critical and essential services you provide. Please be safe, and take care of yourselves and others.

Sincerely,

L. Marinn Pierce, 2019-2020 ASERVIC President
Ryan Foster, 2019-2020 ASERVIC President-Elect
Leila Roach, 2019-2020 ASERVIC Past-President