

Welcome 2021!

For many of us, we are happy to find hope and optimism from a year that had so many challenges. We are definitely still in a pandemic, but we are rolling out a vaccine and it appears we have a pathway toward a better future. I find myself repeating many times this past year “I’ve been wrong a lot since March” so I have worked incredibly hard at being an “active listener” where you truly are trying to understand each other, embrace different lenses and come together to address some of the most difficult challenges of our nation.... possibly the history of the world! Equity is key and our “K” shaped recovery needs to be acknowledged and addressed. Understanding each other and listening is the foundation of community- understanding current structures and institutional arrangements, power dynamics and coming together around a single purpose, not based solely on destination and location, but a common set of ideas and values!

My role is to support the society... to be a better CDS! We are currently exploring multiple intersections of “community development” and finding ways to reach others who intersect with our mission. Folks may not think of many groups as “community developers” but they keep us safe, teach our youth, provide spiritual guidance and preserve culture. We are working on reaching out to elevate our inclusive approach based on research and advocacy! Another proactive approach of CDS is to reach out to the Native community. As we recognize the indigenous nations that are throughout the US and the international community, it is critical that we listen to and work with Native nations to understand how we can support and elevate their sovereignty. This is critical to the future of the society and is so important to me personally!

We are also expanding our advocacy to other associations to find ways to work together, develop partnerships and elevate intersections between profession, passion and purpose. These groups consist of folks working in public service, planning our communities and promoting equity! Additionally, we will begin a webinar series highlighting research and practice from our journals from a variety of focus areas. These exciting conversations will be sent to members and made available on our website as a runway to our conference. We will provide more information to expand the webinar series in a few months!

Finally, while we identify and reach out to different networks, we are searching for additional funding sources to support CDS in their mission. We are in conversations with a few groups about funding some of our efforts and supporting the society. Despite the pandemic, we are still moving forward with these conversations and finding ways to create alignment with foundations, corporations, tribes and other charitable causes.

We are in challenging but exciting times at Community Development Society. I am fortunate to be involved with CDS with an incredible group of colleagues and friends for 8 years! It’s great to see the growth of the existing journals, the launching of a new journal and the expansion of

conference topics, purpose and reach. I am also honored to serve as the first Executive Leadership Fellow for CDS. If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to me via the CDS main number 888-837-7380 or email etrevan@hotmail.com. Let's come together and do everything we can to make 2021 a great year and support our communities!

Thank-You!