COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT PROVIDES A SPACE FOR HEALING FOR STUDENTS IN DR. HUATONG SUN'S TCOM 420 ADVANCED WEB DESIGN CLASS

Each year since 2012, Dr. Huatong Sun’s TCOM 420 Advanced Web Design class collaborates with a local community partner. This year’s students worked with Catherine Place, a local women’s center, to design an online training program -- Jane’s C.A.R.E program -- to help women professionals build workplace resilience. TCOM 420 class projects are supported by the UW Libraries Digital Scholarship project. The class used a critical and mindful design methodology to guide the design process.

In a remote teaching quarter and at a time that calls for activism and resilience building, this project could not have been more timely. Dr. Sun began the project thinking her class community engagement project would transform the local community. In the end, the class was transformed through the design process. This time around the community engagement project provided a space for healing, which was very much needed and appreciated after a quarter filled with the stresses of COVID-19 and police brutality. Examples of class projects are below.

GROUP 1: PRESTON, YONGSANG, LUKAS, CHI

Our vision is to create a website that enables diverse female caretakers to utilize with efficiency and to make the connection between targeted audiences and “care instructors” with enough content of care. We created a secure and safe login process and a transparent, simple pop out consent form. The homepage uses a simple and functional design theme that displays information about the CARE program using an easy search and retrieval system.
GROUP 2: ALLEN, ISABELLA, SAKSITH

Our website’s goal is to provide a safe and diverse space for women caregivers to learn self-improvement practices, such as meditation, that combat burnout. The content features articles and videos that will help them learn useful ways to cope with daily stress. The website has easy translation to reach a more diverse audience.

GROUP 3: HANNAH, MAKAYLA, TAYLOR, TYRE

The goal of our website is to create a safe space for caregivers to learn and implement mindfulness practices through the modules of compassion, awareness, resilience, and empowerment. By the use of the interactive media on our website, such as videos, audio files, articles, and images, we believe that our website can provide vital information in an encouraging and interactive way that will leave a lasting impression on all who take part in the program.

GROUP 4: ADI, SARAH, DANIEL

Our team combined ease of use and inclusivity to create a website that can be used by multiple groups of women in a way that is uplifting, encouraging, and fun. We implemented a theme that allowed us, as developers, to create more content and control the positioning of it. We did this by including the content in both English and Spanish side-by-side on each page and by using prominent and recognizable buttons. We hope the targeted women user groups find their experience seamless and simple.
HOW MIGHT WE RE-OPEN CAMPUS SAFELY? STUDENTS DISCUSS WHAT IT WOULD TAKE FOR THEM TO FEEL SAFE ON CAMPUS AGAIN

As much of the state and country begins the re-opening process, health and safety concerns are at the forefront for many students as returning to campus is discussed. To get a pulse of what people are feeling, each of our Spring Innovation & Design awardees, Christopher Sim, Mailyn Abon, Anh Lam, and Abdul Abubakar, asked their friends to respond to the question, “How might we re-open campus safely?” Some participants provided direct quotes, whereas others responded to a brief Google Form.

Responses could be broadly categorized into four categories: official guidance, communication and visuals, hygiene and sanitization, and hybrid learning.

THEME 1: THE NEED FOR OFFICIAL GUIDANCE

"The Chancellor should officially announce some new rules or guidelines that everyone can and should follow if we want to continue to stay healthy. This may include some of the same rules that were pushed out through the WHO mandates and whatever our government and public health officials have to say about the situation."
-- Anonymous

"I would need to receive reassurance from officials that I will be safe if I follow a set of guidelines. The concept of the pandemic still brings me some anxiety because I do not know what resources to turn to when it regards my health, and whether I should be out or not. To see the campus following some set of guidelines that ensures our health and safety would be enough for me to feel safe on campus."
-- Anonymous

"One thing that would make me feel safer on campus is if all students, faculty, and staff are subject to certain safety rules in order to reduce the risk of the virus spreading among the community. A few ways that we could do this is to make sure students are staying at home if they believe to be showing any symptoms, to have frequent testing of students, and to have regular temperature checks. I think heavy importance should be placed on having testing kits ready to go and ensuring students and faculty have the proper PPE equipment"
-- Abdul Abubakar, Technical Communication, junior
**THEME 2: INCORPORATING CLEAR COMMUNICATION AND VISUALS**

“I think what it is going to take for everyone to actually follow the new norms for keeping healthy is the communication, which is probably going to be really hard. Visuals around campus may be helpful, such as signs that remind people to wash their hands and keep a certain distance.”

-- Anonymous

"Some of the [physical] campus environment may need some rearranging to help people practice social distancing."

-- Anonymous

"The campus administration needs to enforce rigorous cleanliness and social distancing guidelines, such as limit the number of people in a class with at least 6 feet apart from each other, etc."

-- Jan Silva, Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, sophomore

**THEME 3: INCREASED ATTENTION TO HYGIENE AND SANITIZATION**

"The school needs to set up more sanitization stations especially around locations and areas that many people will be interacting with such as near restrooms and classrooms. Also I recommend the school switch to contactless payment for parking as well as all on-site purchases."

-- Chris Sim, Communications, senior

"I feel uneasy about re-opening campus, but since the spread has slowed down I think if we follow the CDC health guidelines, then we should be good. We need to limit how many people can be in the same space and ensure there are more hand sanitizer stations and soap in the bathroom, as it’s always running out."

-- Anh Lam, Healthcare Leadership, senior
**THEME 4: HYBRID LEARNING**

“Remote options for in-class lectures or on-site meetings should be kept. Professors should be encouraged to record their class lectures for students who are still finding it difficult to adjust to coming back out after lockdown. Not only is it considerate to those who feel like they may be sick and cannot come to campus, but also it is considerate to their peers. Students should not have to miss out on lecture for being sick.”

--- Anonymous

**SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!**

How might we re-open campus safely for all students, faculty and staff?

Tweet us at @GlobalIDT
Email at globalid@uw.edu

**GOOGLE FORM SURVEY RESULTS**

In addition to asking classmates and friends, “How might we re-open campus safely?” a brief Google Form survey was shared (n=10). Participants were asked what steps leadership could take to make campus feel safe to return to for Fall 2020 and could select one or all of the following:

- Sanitization stations throughout campus
- Hybrid model with some remote, some -in-person
- Specialized PPE distributed to each student, faculty, and staff member
- Mandate from the governor
- Campus-wide edict

Additional survey feedback collected included the following suggestions:

- Temperature checks
- Zoom curriculum was a mess. I know it was last minute, but hopefully it will be well organized in the future.
- Same class sizes! (Even if we need to social distance)
- Having masks available, and perhaps using campus security + faculty/staff to enforce that in the hallways. Having gloves available too!

**What steps could leadership take to make campus feel safe?**