Dear graduate students,

I hope you are well. As you look ahead to the summer, I want to pass along a couple pieces of information that may be of interest.

In addition to Duke’s continuing efforts to provide summer funding opportunities for Ph.D. students who need them, the university is also working to create professional development opportunities to help you keep building valuable skills and experience despite disrupted summer plans. One resource we are looking to is our 175,000-plus alumni. Duke is asking them to help provide micro-internships, skill-building projects, or professional mentorship for current Duke students and 2020 graduates.

Before we can ask our alumni to create those opportunities, we must first understand how we can best meet your professional development needs. To help us, please complete this Summer Opportunities Survey by Monday, May 18, at 11:59 p.m. We realize that is a short timeframe. The university is trying to work quickly to create these opportunities and match students with the right ones.

By completing the survey, you will identify the skills and job experiences you seek, and you will be registered to be among the first to learn more about potential opportunities as they emerge. We do not yet know what scope or specific options will be available, but Duke’s aim is to connect as many students and new graduates as possible to meaningful skill-building opportunities with our alumni and Duke partners.

Also, Duke has launched a new website—https://keepexploring.duke.edu—to help you explore the many summer professional development opportunities that are available. The site lists resources within and outside of Duke, and more will be added as they are created. I encourage you to use this site to help you think strategically about how to continue your professional growth. If you have any questions or suggestions, please email keepexploring@duke.edu.

After the past couple months, you might be feeling stressed out or tired, and summer professional development plans might be far from your mind. That is understandable, and that is ok. Just bookmark the Keep Exploring site for when you are ready to think about those plans. You have shown great resilience throughout the recent disruptions. Please know that the university, our alumni, and our partners are working to support you. Take care!

Sincerely,

Paula D. McClain, Ph.D.
Dean of The Graduate School
Vice Provost for Graduate Education