6 Ways Alumni Can Help Students

Tip #1: Donate to the Duke Student Assistance Fund
This fund will benefit students in all schools and will help alleviate the unexpected burden of student expenses such as airline tickets, temporary housing, meals, technology for online learning and more. To make a gift of any size, go to http://giving.duke.edu/student-assistance.

Tip #2: Respond with Messages of Support
Alumni may hear from students through the alumni network (Alumni.Duke.Edu) or the Duke Alumni Association’s pilot project Ask A Blue Devil. Look for emails with subject lines such as “Can you help a fellow Blue Devil?” or “A Duke student is contacting you.” When receiving a message from a student, you can consider:
• Congratulating the student on their accomplishments and their graduation (if the student is part of the Class of 2020)
• Sharing words of encouragement
• Letting the student direct the conversation
• Sharing an experience that you overcame when you were college-aged (if the student expresses anxiety or concern about the future)

Tip #3: Update Your Alumni Network Profile
A semester that DAA’s alumni network (Alumni.Duke.Edu) is an online directory of more than 175,000 alumni and students. This is the only platform that allows alumni and students to connect with each other and contact. More students are likely to start using the alumni network during this time, so alumni should make sure that their profile is updated with their most up-to-date contact information. To do this:
• Visit Alumni.Duke.Edu
• Log in with your alumni username and password
• Follow the instructions to set up a Duke OneLink account
• Update your personal contact information and import your LinkedIn profile
• View our How-to Guide

Tip #4: Share Job, Internship or Project Opportunities
Many students’ summer internships, study abroad plans or research projects have been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. There are a few ways to find meaningful professional development opportunities for the summer. Additionally, graduating students are nervous about job prospects, even those who have a job offer in hand.

If you know of opportunities for internships, jobs or remote work:
• Post the position on the DAA Job Board
• DAA will share these positions with career centers, on our social media and with our list of more than 80 campus colleagues who work directly with students.

Additionally, if you can offer a Duke student a virtual internship or project (paid or unpaid) that contributes to their professional development this summer, please email Susan Gordon, DAA’s senior director of career and professional development, with details on the specific project and skills required: susan.gordon@duke.edu

A reminder that DAA’s alumni network (Alumni.Duke.Edu) is an online directory accessible to Duke’s more than 175,000 alumni and students. This is the only platform that allows alumni and students to search for one another and connect. More students are likely to start using the alumni network during this time, so alumni should make sure their profiles are updated with their most up-to-date contact information. To do this:
• Visit Alumni.Duke.Edu
• Log in by clicking on the green Register/Sign in button at the top right
• Follow the instructions to set up a Duke OneLink account
• Update your personal contact information and import your LinkedIn profile
• View our How-to Guide

Tip #5: Join the Official Duke Alumni LinkedIn Group
This LinkedIn group is for all Duke-affiliated individuals to connect with each other to discuss professional topics and career opportunities. To find the group:
• Log into LinkedIn
• In the search bar at the top left, type “Duke University Alumni Network.”
• Once you see the page, click “Request to Join.” Your request will be accepted within 24-48 hours.

DAA will be sharing helpful resources and new ways for the alumni community to support students in the weeks to come. Stay in touch with DAA by checking your email, visiting our website (Alumni.Duke.Edu) and watching our social media channels.