

Update from your EDC Student Representative

Hi everyone! Hope your semester is going well so far. Can you believe we're over halfway through it already?! I want to take this opportunity to update all the EDC students on some of the latest developments at the Mortenson Center. It has been a couple of very busy weeks for the new Leadership Team as Dr. Bernard Amadei and Dr. Karl Linden joined as co-directors and have sought to re-envision the direction of the Center and how to improve the overall student experience.

To begin that process, we sent out a couple of surveys to new, current and former students to get more detailed feedback on what the Center is doing well and where it needs to improve. For the returning practicum students, we sent out a field-experience-specific survey and held our first 'Debrief Session' to talk about some of the challenging aspects of field work. Thank you all for taking the time to respond to these surveys and sharing your thoughts with us. Please know that this information is very valuable for the Mortenson Center as we start to look at how to enhance the curriculum and programming, especially in areas such as the practicum.

Additionally, our EDC Student Group is off to a great start so far this year. In the first few weeks of the semester, we have formalized the group as an Affiliated Student Group with the University, held our first of multiple speaker series, organized a couple of social hour meetups and had our first group discussion (just last night!) on the SDGs. We have also coordinated with the administration to get a weekly "MCEDC Digest" up and running to get you all the latest news on development-related happenings around campus.

In the next couple of weeks look forward to an announcement regarding our next speaker series in early November and our next Student Group meeting to start planning events for next semester. We will also be announcing some info about a collaboration event between MCEDC and Posner coming up in the next couple of weeks. This will be a great opportunity for students and faculty to connect with a wide-array of local practitioners in the development sector.

To stay updated on all the goings-on make sure you check out the MCEDC Digest as this is the main way that both the Leadership Team and the Student Group will communicate with all the EDC students, faculty and staff. It's full of great event details and opportunities for everyone, so make sure you give a good read through!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions / comments / suggestions on how we can improve the student experience within the MCEDC Program. I'm always up for a chat, so please feel free to reach out and connect! nicholas.valcourt@colorado.edu

-Nick