

Dear ABFSE Community, (Emailed 7/2/2020)

The recent Town Hall Meeting was well attended so we decided to do it again.

The ABFSE Program Committee recommended a Town Hall meeting followed by professional development so mark your calendars for Thursday, July 30, 2020.

Town Hall Meeting @ 2 pm Eastern followed by a professional development roundtable discussion – Best Practices for Distance Education @ 3:30 pm.

During the Town Hall there will be additional accreditation updates and an opportunity for you to ask questions. If you have something on your mind, please contact the ABFSE office so we can research answers for you.

Following the Town Hall there will be an opportunity to share the Best Practices that you have learned for dealing with distance education. There should be ample expertise to share. Data from the Annual Reports indicates that 88% of our ABFSE programs had distance education available *in some fashion* prior to the pandemic. For some only general education courses were available via DE, but 52% offered at least 1 funeral course via distance and 18 programs had DE grads in 2019 (completed 50% or more of coursework via DE).

Due to the pandemic conditions, everyone had to learn to adapt to the distance environment virtually overnight. What have you learned and what is best avoided? Share your thoughts and ask your questions.

See you on July 30. Watch your email for separate Zoom links to the sessions. Feel free to share the links with staff. Oh, and in your spare time, check out funeral service publications that highlighted your ABFSE colleagues - Steve Spann in the June 2020 edition of the ICCFA Magazine and David Penepent in the July 2020 edition of *The Director* and *American Funeral Director*.

Best wishes,

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July 30, 2020

Join Town Hall Zoom Meeting @ 2 pm Eastern

<https://zoom.us/j/92131143823?pwd=dnZiTW82Q2t6Q2M0R1RRN2dnazBpUT09>

Join Best Practices for DE Zoom Meeting @ 3:30 pm Eastern

<https://zoom.us/j/95052719359?pwd=MFN4N0w1dDBDcDZGV3hyLONuNTdFQT09>