COVID-19 is placing unprecedented strain on health and food systems, threatening decades of progress made in health and nutrition. To address this challenge, the Mason Lecture Series will host a panel discussion focusing on Measuring Food Insecurity in the Era of COVID-19. The panel will discuss how the current economic environment is affecting food security, the role of technology in measuring food insecurity, and potential solutions to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on food systems.

In the first stage (Stage 1) of the Civic Innovation Challenge, all Mason faculty, staff, and students are invited to submit a proposal for a pilot project that aims to address sustainability-related issues. The office of Innovation and Economic Development will fund up to 10 projects with a budget of up to $100,000 each. The goal is to develop and test innovative solutions that can be scaled up or replicated on a larger scale.

The Mason Lecture Series continues with a panel discussion on “How the COVID-19 Pandemic Is Reshaping Our Government, Economy, and Society.” The panelists will explore the implications of the pandemic on various sectors, including public health, finance, and technology. The panel will also discuss the role of government and society in responding to the crisis and preparing for future pandemics.

The Civic Innovation Challenge will also include a second stage (Stage 2) in which selected projects will be invited to compete for full awards of up to $1,000,000 each. The winners will be chosen based on their potential for innovation and impact. This stage is open to all Mason faculty, staff, and students, as well as external partners and organizations.

The Mason Lecture Series concludes with a panel discussion on “Social Inequities and the Disparities of Impact.” The panelists will discuss how the pandemic has affected different populations and communities, with a focus on social and economic disparities. The panel will also explore potential strategies for addressing these disparities and promoting equity.

Additional information on these events can be found on Mason’s website. If you are interested in attending or participating, please contact the organizers for more information.