

Dear WWCC community,

We write to you in response to the killing of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, other anti-Black acts of violence and racism, and the aftermath of protests we've seen across our nation.

There are no words to describe these incidents and the harmful effects that they have on our community. As a college, we stand against structural racism and condemn racist, bigoted and violent speech or conduct. We believe Black lives matter, and we support the work that helps advance racial equity and create a safe environment for our students, employees, and communities. We strive to be an anti-racist community, intentionally identifying and addressing the inequities we see in our systems. We commit to working collectively to combat and disrupt the hate and violence against Black people and other persons of color in our communities. We ask that you join us in condemning these incidents of violence and offering support to our colleagues who are feeling the weight and grief of these incidents and their aftermath.

Perhaps most importantly, we want to acknowledge the fear, anger, hurt, and frustrations of the Black community and other individuals and communities of color. We recognize that the cumulative effect of trauma for systematically marginalized groups can result in negative physical, mental and psychological outcomes. More than ever, we want to encourage you to take care of each other and yourselves. Make space to practice self-care, and, if you're able, take the time to check in with each other. If you're unable to participate in class discussions, reach out to your instructors for support; if you're unable to join a department meeting, let your colleagues know. And let's all make sure to take care of each other and our community, now more than ever.

The Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, in collaboration with the [Counseling Service](#), will be offering spaces of connection and resiliency for our community to grieve, unpack feelings, or just connect. We will hold two forums tomorrow (Tuesday, June 2nd):

All Enrolled Students - 11 a.m. (Zoom Meeting ID: 995 4011 0176; Password: 471733)

College-Wide (all employees) - 1 p.m. (Zoom Meeting ID: 964 4424 1020; Password: 305847)

Please be safe and reach out to either of us if you need anything or would like to connect further.

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President

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