

June 4, 2020

To the Touro University California students, faculty, staff & community:

The College of Education and Health Sciences is deeply disheartened by the recent events impacting the lives of the African American community. The fatal death of George Floyd is one of many lives lost to a failed system meant to support and protect. As we mourn his death let us be reminded that he was more than a victim of circumstance but rather a father, a husband, friend and so much more that we cannot imagine. Let us also mourn the lives of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, and the countless other individuals both locally and nationally who have not been named, who are also violently taken from us.

As a community, we must stand together in these troublesome times and continue to fight the injustices and systemic racism that are deeply rooted within our country. Our commitment to fighting for social justice is more imperative than ever. Let us use this time to experience sorrow but to also recognize our position in this fight, and utilize our privilege to continue these conversations and create a platform of peace and solidarity. We stand with the movement of Black Lives Matter and as current and future public health, healthcare and education professionals, we will advocate in partnership with African American and underserved communities to seek justice and equity. We recognize police brutality as a social determinant of health and a public health epidemic that disproportionately impacts communities of color.

During these sad times, reflect on a quote by Martin Luther King Jr, "***The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.***"

For those who are in need of assistance, the CEHS community is here. We are committed to fighting the injustices within our own community and advocating for those who are oppressed. We welcome suggestions to advocate for those in the community and to provide support.

In Solidarity,

Nicole Cheng, PA-S/MPH, Rachel Hager, PA-S/MPH Kia Yang, PA-S/MPH on behalf of  
CEHS Student Leadership

Dr. Gayle Cummings, Assistant Dean and Public Health Director  
Professor Grace Landel, Assistant Dean and Physician Assistant Director  
Dr. Terry Moore-Harper, Interim Assistant Dean and School of Nursing Director  
Dr. Louise Santiago, Assistant Dean and Director of the Graduate School of Education  
Dr. Lisa Norton, Dean of the College of Education and Health Sciences