

Dear Members of the College of Education,

We are at a unique time in history regarding racial discussions where each of us has an increased opportunity to learn, mature, and advocate. The killing of George Floyd is one of many tracked by name by *Fatal Encounters*, *Killed by Police*, *The Guardian*, and other initiatives and groups in recent years. Disparities in death rates by race due to COVID-19 likewise highlight health inequalities. We grieve with the recent attention to these deaths. Nevertheless, the attention also represents an opportunity to work toward social justice and the ending to racial inequalities inclusive of death, but also of every aspect of life.

As you consider formal statements from the MSU president, informal expressions from [#BlackatMOState](#) and your own students and colleagues, news coverage, and discussions with friends and family, please search your heart and strive to bring about both positive, proactive, systemic change. Missouri State University has a distinct [public affairs mission](#). Clearly this is a time for ethical leadership, engagement in our communities, and increasing cultural competence.

We want you to have resources on your journey, including those from Diversity and Inclusion, <https://diversity.missouristate.edu> and Equity and Compliance, <https://www.missouristate.edu/equity/>.

The programs, faculty, staff, and students in the College of Education have made education in all its forms from public school education to child and family development and facilitation of mental health the center of our life's work. Let's strive to be humbler in our learning from those who have different experiences of the world, more inclusive in our advocacy for perspectives beyond our own, and more committed than ever to ending racism in all its forms.

Respectfully,

The College of Education Leadership Team