

Dear College of Health and Human Sciences community,

The faculty, staff and administrators of the College of Health and Human Sciences join SJSU President Mary Papazian in a call for addressing systemic racism and oppression. During recent weeks we have witnessed far too many new examples of violence against Black, Brown, Asian, and Indigenous communities.

Indeed, the last several days, weeks, months, years, and decades have seen the continued devastation inflicted upon people of color, particularly the Black community. This has resulted from health disparities, trauma, police violence, racism, economic and educational inequities, systematic and structural inimical neglect, historic violence and immutable oppression. This week, you no doubt have heard the news of Derek Chauvin's multiple convictions for the horrific murder of Mr. George Floyd. Nearly a year ago this tragedy drew global support and became symbolic of the need for immediate change. While we may have personally reflected on the outcome of the trial and perhaps discussed it with friends and colleagues; what remains crystal clear is that holding Chauvin accountable for his actions is but one necessary step in the pursuit of justice. Albeit necessary, it is not sufficient in the ongoing effort to dismantle the consequences of long-standing systemic racism and injustice.

We hope for a future in which we have collectively deconstructed the structures that divide us, and that hope is embedded in the work we show-up and do everyday. We concur with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) President, Peter McPherson, when he wrote, "We must work together to create an education system and economy that lifts everyone up and provides equitable opportunities for all." Moreover, and in line with the American Association of Colleges & Universities, we must endeavor to prepare the next generation of leaders to build just and equitable communities and to promote racial healing both on and off campus.

Finally, as noted in President Papazian's statement: "I know that many of us are experiencing anger, grief and emotional stress. Please be aware of the support and resources that SJSU makes available to the campus community. Among those are the Black Leadership and Opportunity Center and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and many others can be found on our Combating Systemic Racism website. Please also be reminded of the counseling and psychological services we offer to students, as well as faculty and staff."

Please also refer to the college website here for updated information and features on the college's work and research on diversity, equity and inclusion.

Sincerely,

- Audrey M. Shillington, Dean
- Matthew A. Masucci, Associate Dean
- Laurie Drabble, Associate Dean
- Peter Allen Lee, Director, School of Social Work
- Ashwini Wagle, Chair, Department of Nutrition, Food Science & Packaging
- Tsu-Hong Yen, Chair, Department of Hospitality, Tourism & Event Management
- Colleen O'Leary-Kelley, Director, The Valley Foundation School of Nursing
- Tamar Semerjian, Chair, Department of Kinesiology
- Yoshi Iwasaki, Chair, Department of Public Health and Recreation
- Shaum Bhagat, Chair Department of Audiology
- Gigi Smith, Chair, Department of Occupational Therapy
- Anthony Korsund, Director, Student Success Center