

June 3, 2020

Dear SBS Students & Colleagues,

We, like many of you, are sickened and disgusted by the events of the past weeks. The murders of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and countless more before them - and the relentless anti-Black racism they evidence - are unacceptable and unconscionable. They are the antithesis of our collective values as "The People College".

It is not lost on us that the communities most vulnerable to state violence are also suffering higher rates of illness and death from COVID-19. Morbidity and mortality are structural. They are also preventable - if values and actions are aligned in such a way as to reduce such disparities. Currently, they are not, at the local, state, and national levels. *This must change.* Anti-racist efforts must be intersectional, done in concert with efforts to ensure the thriving of immigrants, trans people, Indigenous people, and other marginalized communities at higher risk of state and interpersonal violence.

Frederick Douglass wrote, "If there is no struggle, there is no progress." As social scientists, we understand that protest is *fundamental* to social change. As such, we write today in full support of faculty, staff and students who are actively organizing and participating in protests. We also affirm our commitment to the long-term labor required to overturn structural racisms, confront white privilege and end white supremacy, and justly transform our communities.

Toward this end - because words without actions are just words - we commit to:

- Working with the SBS [Diversity and Inclusion Committee](#) to expand our anti-racist programming, practices, and responses;
- Enrolling our department heads and school directors, together with faculty, in creating additional justice- and human-rights focused curricula;
- Hosting a series of interventions - talks, collaborations, teach-ins - featuring our faculty and students, whose expertise in social movements, police violence, equity and inclusion, and anti-racism is unmatched on campus;
- Committing college-level resources, though currently limited by the budget crisis, to support these efforts;
- Welcoming your ideas and suggestions for additional efforts; you may email either one of us at jpjones@arizona.edu or mjcasper@arizona.edu.

We stand ready to listen, to learn, and to intervene.

In solidarity,

John Paul Jones III
Don Bennett Moon Dean

Monica J. Casper
Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs and Inclusion