

SEATTLEU

CENTER FOR
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our Commitment to Black Lives

June 3, 2020

Dear Friends of the CCE,

We are writing today to affirm that we, the staff of the Center for Community Engagement, believe and know that Black Lives Matter. We honor wide-spread grief for the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery among the many named and unnamed Black lives lost to racial violence and hatred in the United States. The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement — co-founded by Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi — arose to address ongoing legacies of racialized violence in our country. As BLM leaders have consistently stated, disproportionate violence toward Black communities by law enforcement is one manifestation of anti-Black systemic racism perpetuated across public and private institutions including health care, housing and education.

We are firmly and deeply committed to the lives of Black community members, Black youth and their families, and Seattle U's Black students, faculty and staff.

We believe that messages like this one can have an impact, and yet our words ring hollow without action. The Center for Community Engagement is committed to becoming an anti-racist organization. Fulfilling our mission of connecting campus and community requires long-term individual, organizational, and system-wide focus on understanding and undoing white supremacy. We see our commitment to anti-racism as directly linked to Seattle University's [pursuit of a more just and humane world](#) as well as our Jesuit Catholic ethos of *cura personalis*, care for the whole person.

We urge you to participate in ways that speak to you during the national racial crisis that is continuing to unfold. This could include:

- **Resting and Healing**
- **Learning** about systemic racism and racial equity through books, articles, podcasts and videos such as the [SeattleU Black Student Union \(BSU\) Statement](#)
- **Donating** to local Black-led organizations such as [Africatown](#), [Black Dot](#) and the [Black Community Impact Alliance](#)
- **Supporting** Black-owned local small businesses
 - see the [Intentionalist](#) or [this list of Black-owned restaurants](#)
- **Signing** petitions and **Contacting** elected representatives
- **Joining** a rally or march while maintaining physical distancing or **Attending** a virtual event such as *Lament and Hope: A Vigil for Racial Justice*, hosted by Seattle University on Thursday, June 4th, 12:15-1:00pm, via [Zoom](#)
- **Engaging** in dialogue with your friends and family

The Center for Community Engagement will continue to share resources and opportunities to be present during this challenging and transformative moment for our city and our country. We will post anti-racist content on our website and social media platforms (@su_cce) as well as continue these conversations with you, our beloved community. **#BlackLivesMatter**

Sincerely,

Center for Community Engagement (CCE) Staff