



*Leadership and
Community Engagement
Program*

*College of
Liberal Arts*

WE STAND WITH YOU
#BLACKLIVESMATTER

To Our Students and Colleagues,

Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, Atatiana Jefferson, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade are the most recognizable names recently added to a long list of Black lives lost as a direct result of systemic racism and the practices that enable such racism. We condemn, in the strongest terms, the brutal and inhumane treatment these and many other individuals have endured because of racist policies. Today and everyday we stand in solidarity with #BlackLivesMatter.

We must also recognize that academic institutions continue to hold biases formed on the basis of skin color and an unwillingness to accept the validity of different experiences. The UTEP Leadership and Community Engagement Program commits to access and excellence for our students. For as long as racism and systemic oppression exist in academia and society, we have the responsibility to speak out against these injustices.

We recognize that our students and colleagues, on the basis of their skin color, can face discrimination, inequities, fear, violence, and trauma in many aspects of daily life. In order to enact real change, we must address the racism that is deeply embedded in our society and in academia. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to racial justice as a foundation for our program by furthering our existing efforts towards the following practices:

- Development and dissemination of antiracist practices and resources
- Rooting out inequities that may be implicit or explicit in our classrooms, our program policies, and teaching practices
- Engaging in frank discussions with our students, staff, and faculty about anti-racism
- Creation of spaces where ALL students feel safe and free to learn

Sincerely,

The Leadership and Community Engagement Program,
The University of Texas at El Paso

RESOURCES:

Campus Services

- This Matters: Black Lives Matter webinar on Wednesday June 2 ([watch it here](#))
- [Counseling Services](#)

Teaching

- [Incorporating anti-racist pedagogy in the College Classroom](#)
- [“Committing to Equity and Inclusive Excellence”](#), a special issue of peer Review, vol. 19(2), Spring 2017.

Additional Reading

- [Black Lives Matter](#) & [M4BL](#)
- [#SayHerName](#)
- [Dos, Don'ts and Resources to Communicate Support](#) of #BlackLivesmatter

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