



STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF BLACK LIVES MATTER

June 9, 2020

Dear Cañada Community:

Like so many of you I am outraged and deeply saddened by the horrific murder by law enforcement and vigilantes that killed George Floyd, Ahmaud Aubrey, Brianna Taylor and too many others. Unfortunately, the murder of unarmed Black and Brown people is not new to the United States, it is the result of slavery and systemic racism that has been used to oppress people of color for over 400 years.

Not long after we witnessed the 8 minutes and 46 seconds death of George Floyd, as he narrated his own demise. I found that I could not sleep because I know first-hand that so many of us are hurting as a result of this horrific modern-day lynching. I knew I could not just write a statement and not invite the college community to a conversation, because so many of us have the knees of injustice on our necks and it is hard to breathe. As an African American woman with an African American son, I know first-hand the fear and anxiety of racism. My mother taught me and I continue to teach my son, to take exceptional precaution to ensure his safety. I have spent my entire life and my child's life actively working to prevent my skin color from being seen as a weapon every time I leave the house. We have got to do better, we must do better if we are going to save are humanity, we have to stop the racial injustices and we can only do that if we all see each other as human as equals.

I am pleased to serve my community as the President of Cañada Community College and part of that service is providing a venue for a safe space for both students and staff to come together in times of need and distress to be heard and to ask for help as we walk the path of healing. I will be working with the District Office, the State of California, the College and our broader community to strategize around ways to stop this violence that has plagued the United States. Blacks deserve the right to be free from systemic racism that puts us in peril for:

- living while Black,
- jogging while Black,
- shopping while Black,
- driving while Black and
- bird watching while by Black

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation serving the most ethnically and racially diverse student population in the United States. As a college community, we seek to address institutional racism on our campus and in the community as we offer support through professional development designed to address social justice and equity.

African Americans deserve the right to breathe without knees on their necks! They deserve the right to be free from fear of violence for simply living. Institutionalized racism must be eliminated. We are committed to anti-racism work – in our classrooms, in our college and in our communities. The Cañada College Community stands in unity in support of the eradication of systemic racism, social injustice and racial bias. The community college can and should be an incubator for change regarding institutional racism in the state and the country. Cañada College stands united with the thousands of protesters in Minnesota and throughout the nation who are peacefully expressing their outrage and frustration at the deaths of unarmed African Americans.

Sincerely,
Jamillah Moore, Ed.D.
President