



April 20th, 2021

To the CLA Community:

We wanted to take a moment to make sure that you saw the university's message about the historic guilty verdict levied today against former police officer, Derek Chauvin, for the murder of George Floyd. We know that although many in our community are feeling some relief, there is still work to be done. There has been much discussion about *justice* during this trial and following the verdict. Many thought leaders have spoken about this word and its meanings. Cornell West says "Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public." Other writers such as Albert Camus have touched upon what many in our country might be feeling today: "I should like to be able to love my country and still love justice."

But two quotes stand out about justice to us today. We give you Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous words to give you hope: "The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice." But we want to partner that with Benjamin Franklin's words: "Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are."

CSU Chancellor Joseph Castro, in his message today (<https://www2.calstate.edu/Pages/justice-for-george-floyds-family.aspx>), referenced Jonathan Capehart's opinion piece in the Washington Post entitled "[Being Black in America is Exhausting](#)" – we urge our community members who are not Black to read pieces like this to continue to gain understanding of the life that so many Black writers have tried to explain in times past. We also ask that our Black community be centered at this time – part of being a community is making effort to wrap our arms around those who need it the most in troubled times.

To our Black community on campus and beyond, please take care of yourself and your families today, and see the university's list of resources below. We stand beside you and with you and will keep working in our own lives to continue to bend the moral arc toward true justice.

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