



MEMORANDUM

SENT: 6/1/20

UPDATED: 6/9/20

TO: CLA Students, Staff and Faculty
FROM: Philip J. Williams, Dean
Jennifer Teramoto Pedrotti, Associate Dean for Diversity and Curriculum
Debra Valencia-Laver, Associate Dean for Administration
Penny K. Bennett, Associate Dean for Student Success

SUBJECT: A Message of Solidarity

To all our students, staff, and faculty in the CLA:

We just wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the heartache, the anger, and the sorrow that we know many of you, your families, and friends are feeling in the wake of the killings of George Floyd and so many unnamed others. We see you, we hurt with you, we are angry alongside you.

It is our guess that all of you have seen on television and social media the protests and devastation occurring in many of our major cities this past week. The devastation that is sweeping our cities is borne of abject pain. Our college values tell us that when one of us hurts, we all hurt. We stick together. And so we ask you in this very difficult time to reach out to your classmates, and your colleagues, especially those who are Black and brown, to show them that you care, that they are not raging alone, that we are in this together.

If you are a student and having a hard time understanding the emotions and ideas surrounding these recent events, we urge you to keep on educating yourself. Take the Social Construction of Whiteness course, take Intergroup Dialogues, take Critical Race Theory, take African American History. Education is the key to ending this tragic cycle of racism. Take advantage of the gift our faculty stand ready to give you. If you are a faculty or staff member needing more education, reach out to our Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology. Read Kendi's "How to Be an Antiracist" or Taylor's "From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation." Read Davis's "The Meaning of Freedom." Keep the idea in your mind that we are all perpetual students, and be broad in your learning.

If any of you need more, we ask you to reach out to us. Below is the list we always extend of counseling services and crisis lines. All of these resources are useful and helpful. But in addition, we ask each of our students, faculty, and staff with privilege to pledge to act today, not only in our college or university, but in the world. Use your Learn-by-Doing education to do better. To do something. To make change. To care. And to affirm that Black lives do matter.

In solidarity,

Philip J. Williams, Dean
Jennifer Teramoto Pedrotti, Associate Dean for Diversity and Curriculum
Debra Valencia-Laver, Associate Dean for Administration
Penny K. Bennett, Associate Dean for Student Success



Campus Counseling Services 24/7 Crisis Line: (805) 756-2511
SLO Counseling Service at Cal Poly: 805-756-1532
Transitions Mental Health SLO 24/7 Hotline: 800-783-0607