

Dear CLA Students,

We have taken some time to think about and reflect on how we can support you as Academic Advisors and want to reiterate the words expressed in the [CLA Solidarity Statement](#) and reassure you that we strongly believe that Black lives do matter. We condemn anti-Blackness, white supremacy and police brutality. As a predominantly white institution and department comprised of mainly white staff, we want to acknowledge that our Black students and students of color may experience feelings of isolation and fear. We acknowledge that it can be difficult to feel comfortable and get the support you deserve. Each of us in CLA Advising stand with our Black student communities and see the value in each of your identities, stories, and lived experiences in this community. To help make our campus and our community a better place for everyone, we commit to:

- Continually educating ourselves and each other, both professional and student staff, about active allyship; including understanding systemic racism, and our own biases and privileges.
- Having frequent discussions as an advising team to make sure we are aware of the realities of racism on campus and the struggles that our Black and POC students, faculty and staff are experiencing, so that we may continually address the climate on our campus.
- Identifying and disrupting systemic inequities found in the policies and procedures, in our spaces and on our campus.
- Supporting and growing our [Multicultural Scholars Program](#) (MSP) including orientation and mentor programs, and a dedicated Academic Advisor.
- Continually supporting our students within MSP, both academically and personally.
- Giving students the space and the opportunity, in our advising appointments, to share their frustrations, sadness, anger and other emotions.
- Speaking up against acts of violence and racism.
- Connecting students with appropriate resources.

Please let us know how we can support and advocate for your success and well-being.

In solidarity,

CLA Advising Center
Alejandra Cebros, Multicultural Academic Advisor
Emily Garcia, Academic Advisor
Katie Harris, Academic Advisor
Dr. Penny Bennett, Associate Dean for Student Success
Sabrina Canady, Lead Academic Advisor