



**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY®

College of Health and  
Human Sciences

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

Dear Colleagues,

I am devastated by the senseless brutality that led to the death of George Floyd and the incomprehensible pattern it represents. As members of a primarily white campus community, many of us have little knowledge of the weight that racism bears on Black people.

I encourage you to be open to developing a greater understanding and compassion for those who face racism, bigotry and inequities in big and small ways every day. To that end, I hope you will review the [enlightening videos](#) developed by Professor Margo Monteith of the Department of Psychological Sciences, along with others, as part of the Boiler Inclusion Project. The short videos offer insight into issues of race, gender, ethnicity and more. Other excellent resources are available at the [Purdue Black Cultural Center](#) and the [Purdue Acceptance and Inclusion Consortium](#).

I also want to take this opportunity to share the following statement that appears on the [HHS website](#):

*Diversity is an essential asset for the College of Health and Human Sciences to create, foster and sustain an inclusive environment that integrates diverse perspectives among students, faculty and staff. Our learning, research and engagement must occur without prejudice, intimidation, intolerance or discrimination. We value and embrace inclusion that provides equal opportunities for all who learn, work and come in contact with the College to actively participate in a vibrant and intellectual community with a broad range of ideas and viewpoints.*

As dean of this outstanding College, it is my responsibility to ensure that all members of HHS feel safe, welcome and valued, but I need your help. We must continue to come together as a college to cultivate a friendly, inclusive environment in which everyone feels comfortable. Please consider reaching out to our Black colleagues and students to express your support for them during this challenging and unsettling time.

If you are in need of emotional support related to this topic or simply want to discuss your thoughts and ideas, I encourage you to contact HHS' Office of Diversity and Inclusion at [HHSInclusion@purdue.edu](mailto:HHSInclusion@purdue.edu) or (765) 494-8210. Because staff are working remotely, you will need to leave a message, but someone will get back to you soon. Students with concerns or suggestions are also welcome to contact their academic advisors. Faculty are encouraged to contact department heads. I am also available for virtual appointments most days from 4:00P – 5:30P, so please email me at [underwood@purdue.edu](mailto:underwood@purdue.edu) if you would like to talk with me.

Black lives matter. We stand in solidarity with our Black students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends. We must do

better.

Sincerely,

Marion

**Marion K. Underwood, Ph.D.**

*Dean, College of Health and Human Sciences*

Distinguished Professor, Psychological Sciences

She/Her/Hers

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