



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

Changing Lives Through Continuous Innovation

CSU The California State University

The CSU Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Directors' Association represents the EOP programs present on every one of the 23 CSU campuses. EOP was established in the 1960's during the Civil Rights Movement to seek justice and equity for underrepresented students.

EOP is saddened to witness the ongoing disregard for human life and human dignity. It is undeniable that our own story is rooted in the historical struggles of Black Civil Rights. EOP rose out of injustice, violence, and opposition and led a movement for change in marginalized, impoverished, and oppressed communities.

Many years later, our underrepresented community members and students continue to face the same injustices. EOP supports the right to bring attention to these injustices; every person should have the right to live without fear and without bias. We condemn the systemic racism that both enables and protects these acts of violence and disregard for human life. In this spirit, we must embrace our shared humanity and emphasize why the work we do is integral.

Therefore, the CSU EOP Directors' Association pledges to:

- Stand firm in our ongoing commitment to support and serve our marginalized communities;
- Condemn the systemic racism that both enables and protects acts of violence and disregard for human life;
- Support the rights of our students and community members to engage in debate, public protest, and civil activism;
- Stand with our students of all backgrounds to ensure their access to our institutions, as well as to the resources, programs, and services which support their successful degree completion;
- Defend our communities and students from all manner of attacks including racist, sexist, nationalist, homophobic, transphobic, anti-Muslim, and anti-Semitic attacks;
- Provide resources that will ensure that Black students and allies have access to the information, resources, and guidance needed to support the safety and success of our students;
- Affirm and ensure the inherent rights to well-being and to address the individual and collective safety of all members of our communities regardless of background;
- Condemn the phrase "violent protest" that has been used in rhetoric describing the Black Lives Matter movement, because it dims the light of such a multiplex movement;
- Ensure the true essence of this movement is not lost, but heard--as EOP has always served as the conscience of the California State University system;
- Work in coalition with our campus, community partners and each other to protect these values and honor these commitments to social justice, ensuring that these values are upheld on each of our 23 campuses.

Further, the CSU EOP Directors' Association stands in solidarity alongside the Black community and affirms that **ALL BLACK LIVES MATTER**, and we believe that it is our collective responsibility to reject anti-Blackness rhetoric and all forms of explicit and implicit racism in our society. A vast argument of national communications has attempted to characterize BLM as the source of violence which is extremely inaccurate.



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Our past, present and future are intertwined with the movements that Black activists and community organizers have fought for and continue to fight for. In EOP we strive to foster an environment where every student can learn, grow and thrive. In times like these, the importance of our commitments is clear. We commit to uplift, support, and show up for a community we honor and to which we owe much of our legacy. We urge all members of the CSU community to partner with us in our efforts.

In closing, we leave you with the words of Frederick Douglas, "Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe."

In Collective Voice,

The CSU Educational Opportunity Program Directors