

June 5, 2020

Dear Liberal Studies students,

Most of you have chosen this major because you want to be an educator, because you care about people, about the next generation of students and generations after that. As the events of the past weeks have been unfolding, we must acknowledge this historical moment, when huge numbers of people have been coming together to peacefully protest police violence against the Black community and systemic racism. Each of us must examine our roles and responsibilities in helping to dismantle systemic oppression, both as individuals and especially as future educators.

Today would have been Breonna Taylor's 27th birthday. The list of names, on so many people's lips right now, is appallingly long. Many of you are grieving and acting right now. For others of you, this may feel like a new situation, one which hadn't been in your awareness before this. It is, of course, not new for Black Americans and for other people of color. Now is a good time to begin the work of learning about this and stepping up to create a just and fair world for all of us. As educators, this is especially critical. We cannot create classrooms which support the flourishing of whole people - the flourishing of *all* of our students as whole people - unless we come to understand how injustice is perpetuated, and work to dismantle those systems within ourselves and our communities, regardless of their makeup. As you learn about what is happening and why, begin or continue to educate yourselves. Think about how what you learn can help you become a better educator and an advocate for social justice. It is of the utmost importance that we talk about this. To remain silent is to participate in the status quo.

Below are some resources:

- [Advocate](#) from home when you cannot march
- [Read](#) about the history of policing, "rioting" and protest, and Black oppression in the U.S.
- [Listen](#) to the Black community and [define](#) your internal commitments to change
- [Learn](#) how to recognize your *privilege* and use that *privilege* to join anti-racism efforts
- [Donate](#) to these organizations, if you are financially able, such as: [The Bail Project](#), [The Minnesota Freedom Fund](#), [the NAACP Legal Defense Fund](#), [Communities United Against Police Brutality](#), and [The American Civil Liberties Union](#)
- [Share](#) resources
- [Read these books](#)
- Follow on Instagram: @teachersforblacklives; @csusmfutureed

In solidarity,
The Liberal Studies Department