

To: HSC Students

From: Charles Taylor, Provost and EVP

Date: June 3, 2020

Our HSC community stands united to condemn the systemic racism and violence that led to the senseless deaths of George Floyd, of Ahmaud Arbery, of Breonna Taylor and so many others before them. As shared by President Williams earlier this week, we should be guided by our values of Serve Others First, Integrity, Respect, Collaboration, and Be Visionary in all that we do every day. Our mission to “Create Solutions” and our purpose to “Transform Lives” form a unique call to action important as a health science center.

As ONE University, fueled by our values and [HSC Code of Culture](#), we will unite to influence change through thoughtful, peaceful and impactful measures. While I understand there are no words that will heal our pain, angst and fear, I am reminded of the words spoken by Gandhi, “the future depends on what you do today.”

The following are near term actions we are taking to help support, heal, and address the underlying conditions that have brought us to this point:

- **Assistance.** We are committed to the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of our HSC community and encourage you to access the available resources (see attached list) to provide additional support during this difficult time.
- **Dialogue.** Create opportunities for our students, staff and faculty to have the difficult conversations surrounding what got us here and what we can do better and/or different moving forward as One University.
 - The first of five, moderated, live “Cultural Conversations” will kick off tomorrow evening with the Black Professional Pharmacy Association hosting a forum for the System College of Pharmacy (with the others being scheduled by the respective colleges over the next several days.)
- **Awareness.** While we currently have a number of programs available regarding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, we will continue to identify additional opportunities to expand the reach and impact of these initiatives.
 - I will be highlighting some of our existing programs in the upcoming days starting with our [15th Annual Texas Conference on Health Disparities](#), June 11-12th. This virtual conference will focus on women’s health and the challenges that face our communities in terms of health equity.

I am so proud of and fully support our student organizations' condemnation of this tragedy and encouraging fellow students to take actions beyond words with "donations, signing petitions and exercising your civic duties."

For those who are interested, your fellow students have organized a peaceful rally, "White Coats for Black Lives" scheduled tomorrow, June 4th at 1:30pm on the MET Lawn. If you choose to participate, please remember we are still in the midst of a global pandemic so facial coverings and physical distancing are highly recommended for everyone.

The Health Science Center cannot be excellent without being diverse in the broadest sense of the word. HSC Leadership is committed to breaking down barriers and enriching our experiences to ensure you, our future HSC graduates are best positioned to address health inequities today, tomorrow and throughout your career.

To that end, our Task Force on Inclusive Excellence will be expanded, and I invite your nominations for members. This team will represent our students, staff, and faculty and work diligently to synthesize the input you provide through our Cultural Conversations to produce solutions for implementation. I welcome the opportunity to bring those advancements back to you in future updates.

Until then, please take care of yourself and be kind to one another.

Campus Resources

[Counseling Services for Students](#)

[Student Health Clinic](#)

[HSC Trust Line](#)

[CARE Team](#)

[Student Assistance Fund](#)

[Student Financial Aid](#)

[International Student Services](#)