

## Department of Health Science and Human Ecology Statement Against Racism

The Department of Health Science and Human Ecology at CSUSB, along with other college departments across the nation and world, stands in solidarity with our Black students, faculty, staff, and members of the Black community, against all forms of racism, social, and environmental injustices. Racism is an urgent Public Health issue and it is our responsibility as instructors, researchers, health professionals, and community advocates to fight against the blatant racism that impacts, not only our family and loved ones, but also our students, colleagues, and communities.

Research confirms that racism is an added source of chronic stress for people of color in the United States. We recognize Black Americans have experienced oppression, discrimination, and inequitable access to health care, education, employment, housing and other social determinants of health that promote healthy living and quality of life. We recognize systemic racism is one of the driving forces behind health inequities that lead to health disparities and higher rates of morbidity and mortality in the Black community.

Tackling racism requires widening our lens to bring into view the ways in which jobs, working conditions, education, housing, social inclusion, and even political power influence individual and community health within Black populations.

Our department's values of equity, diversity, and advocacy serve as a guide, as we: 1) challenge our diverse student body to explore and critique the intersection of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the classroom, research activities, community work, and other high impact practices; 2) prepare highly competent graduates to work with community organizations in helping to improve the health of underserved populations; and 3) commit to explore and address racism, social, and environmental injustices through our teaching, research, and service.

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”— **Martin Luther King Jr., Letter from the Birmingham Jail**