



Santos Manuel Student Union Statement of Solidarity with National Social Justice Movement

We, at the Santos Manuel Student Union, Recreation and Wellness Department, and Rancho Mirage Student Center at the Palm Desert Campus at California State University San Bernardino (hereinafter referred to as SMSU), recognize and are appalled by the injustice being faced by the Black community. Silence is not an option, and so we support our community in stating that Black Lives Matter.

We stand in solidarity with all our students in the fight for social justice. We stand in solidarity with the students in our campus-community who have been directly affected by the systemic racism which has plagued this country for generations. We recognize that this statement does not serve as a resolution to this issue, but it is a sincere expression of our support for the Black community during this time.

As an organization with an ongoing commitment to providing safe and inclusive spaces for students of California State University San Bernardino (CSUSB), the SMSU has provided support for our Black students in a multitude of ways. We have done so in the past and will continue these efforts into the future. Through the work of the Executive Director and SMSU staff, and their extensive involvement with the Black student population on campus, the Student African American Brotherhood and Student African American Sisterhood were brought to CSUSB, the Pan-African Student Success Center was created, and the organization has provided instrumental support to the Black Faculty, Staff and Student Association.

The SMSU is committed to continuing to host events which promote empowerment and leadership in the Black community. Thus, the SMSU Assistant Director of Diversity and Inclusion has been focused on hosting events which give Black students a safe space to speak about their experiences, address the availability of mental health resources, and share ways to support the cause during this time. We will also be committing new resources, including hiring a coordinator for the Pan-African Student Success Center, in order to specifically address Pan-African student success.

We recognize the importance of establishing proper support on campus to ensure that we empower current and future students at CSUSB and within the community. Therefore, the SMSU is pledging five thousand dollars to be donated to on and off campus efforts and groups related to Black Lives Matter in the Coachella Valley. These groups will be determined by June 25, 2020.

We do not have all the answers; nonetheless, the SMSU is willing to lead the necessary and critical efforts required to help make a change and truly have an impact in bettering the current climate for our Black community and beyond. We are here for our community, and are available and willing to listen to any suggestions for improvement.

We stand with our Black students, our Black community, and all Black people in America in this fight for equality and justice. We, at the Santos Manuel Student Union, Recreation and Wellness Department, and Rancho Mirage Student Center at the Palm Desert Campus, affirm that Black Lives Matter.