

Dear Campus Community:

A year ago, I wrote to you to discuss the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Since his death, more Black members of our communities throughout the United States have died at the hands of their local police. Right now, our nation is struggling to contain anger, sadness and frustration over the death of another young Black man, Daunte Wright, during a traffic stop, and the fatal shooting of a 7th grader, Adam Toledo, with his hands raised. These are just two of the aggressive actions or killings which have taken place and scarred Black and brown families in particular and communities all across our country.

For the last few weeks, the trial of the now former police officer Derek Chauvin who knelt on Mr. Floyd's neck for nine minutes and twenty-nine seconds has been televised across the US. And now the jury have reached their conclusion:

Chauvin has been found guilty on all three counts: second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter and his sentencing will take place in approximately 8 weeks. Chauvin has been remanded into custody, pending sentencing. This verdict does not end the matter as Mr. Floyd should still be with us today, going about his daily life – there is still work to be done.

Therefore, justice does not stop with the outcome of this trial; it requires that we address the systemic racism which has resulted in even more deaths since Mr. Floyd died as a result of Mr. Chauvin's actions.

We stand in solidarity with everyone right now who is being harmed on a daily basis. We stand in solidarity with those who are grieving, frustrated or angered at being subjected to the frequently deadly effects of a racist society. We stand in solidarity with everyone saying, "Enough!"

I said this last May, and it is still painfully relevant now: No one in this country should be putting their life at risk by attempting to go about their daily activities because the color of their skin, the clothing they wear, or visible marks of the religion they practice are marked as "other."

We must as a university community live our core values of inclusivity, integrity, respect, social justice and equity and therefore we must reject the killing of Americans of color and the racist profiling of people of color. We must actively respect one another and honor the common humanity present in each person we encounter. This means recognizing that we are shaped by our environments and that we all carry with us biases and preconceptions.

But they do not have to define our actions. We must each take responsibility for our own behavior and start building an anti-racist country now, today.

The campus will be holding several opportunities to gather virtually in response to the trial and its outcome:

- President's DEI Board Community Forum on Thursday, April 22, from 11am-12pm. Please remember to register with your Coyote ID at the this Zoom link before the event: <https://csusb.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0odumgpj8sHtddWoHu6kof-HnCKa6T-6bs>
- For students (links will be sent separately):
  - Multicultural Healing Space on Wednesday, April 21, from 5-6pm.
  - Black Community Healing Space for students on Wednesday, April 21 at 6pm.
  - Multicultural Healing Space on Tuesday, April 27, from 12-1pm.

Until we lift up and address the needs of those of us and our neighbors who are hurting or harmed by this systemic racism, we cannot move forward. We are all in this together.

Sincerely,

**Tomás D. Morales**  
President