

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT/SUPERINTENDENT
PRESIDENT'S CAMPUS UPDATES



May 31, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

It is hard for me to find the right words to write this message to our Cerritos College community. The events we have seen over the last couple of days beginning with the murder of Mr. George Floyd are despicable, frightening, and upsetting. For some of us, it is hard to believe that the racism we are seeing today is normal in 2020. Others see and experience racist acts daily and know that it is the unjust reality that some Americans experience.

We cannot be a part of the normalization of hate against our black community, or any other minority group. No one should feel afraid to go out for a jog or drive down the street because someone may call the police, knowing this encounter could lead to death or abuse.

Like many of you, I experience racism based on the color of my skin, but these experiences do not compare to the everyday, systemic experiences of black Americans. Let me be clear: I do not claim to understand the experiences that black people face. What I do know is that all forms of racism are based on deep biases, and we need work to eliminate them if we want a better world for us and our future generations. Feeding ill-conceived preconceptions about people is not the way to a better future.

Together we must stand against structural racism and continue to educate ourselves on what that means. The racism that we are seeing today is structural and it is embedded into all aspects of society—this includes laws, dominant cultural norms, and our very own consciousness. The actions by the police officers in Minneapolis occurred within contexts and histories of power and privilege and we must stand against it and on the side of change and fairness.

As an individual, I feel helpless, because I feel like that there is very little I can do to help correct these injustices. However, I am sure, that if we all stand together and act together, our contributions will amount to meaningful change. Please join me in standing against structural racism, and on the side of fairness together.

Attached please find a [resolution](#) the board of trustees will consider during their June 3rd meeting

Jose

Jose Fierro, D.V.M., Ph.D.
President/Superintendent