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Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 1:51:36 PM

From: Jerry Moore <jmoore@csudh.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 11:32 AM
To: DH Email <dhemail@csudh.edu>
Subject: CSUDH Department of Anthropology's statement on Black Lives Matter

Dear members of the CSUDH community,

The Department of Anthropology at California State University Dominguez Hills unequivocally declares that Black Lives Matter. As members of an academic field with a difficult history of scientifically justifying race-based caste categories and studying indigenous groups around the world in service of colonial powers, we are acutely aware of the role academic research has played in the creation and maintenance of racist systems of power.

We not only have a duty to our students to engage these histories and ongoing problems in the classroom, but to connect these inequalities to our students' and colleagues' ongoing experience. As our professional organizations, universities, and departments issue statements of solidarity, we are reaffirmed of the importance of our teaching for helping to create a better world, but we are also reminded of the ways our institutions are failing our students.

The world we want does not exist without educating, training, and supporting our students. The Anthropology Department at California State University Dominguez Hills looks forward to working with our colleagues, co-workers, and students to re-imagine how we can better serve each of them as we engage in the fight against racism, classism, sexism, and ableism.

We appreciate and support the statements already issued by other CSUDH departments and individuals. In an effort to avoid what Sara Ahmed has called "the non-performativity of antiracism" in which a letter of solidarity is sent without concrete plans for change, we are developing action items, which are actively anti-racist. We want our action items to be well-considered and researched with feedback from colleagues of a diversity of identities. We want our plan to be proactive, not reactionary.

All universities are failing in some way, but considering our student body, CSU Dominguez Hills has a special responsibility and much to lose if we do not take positive and substantive action to dismantle systemic racism for our students and ourselves. We can and will do better.

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"Aun aprendo."