

Dear SEE Students, Alumni, Supporters, and Friends:

Yet again, we are living through another senseless act of systemic racism and violence against the Black community. In the past few months, we have witnessed how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Black, Indigenous and People of Color due to health disparities and unequal health care. Now, we are witnessing how unequal justice continues to spread against Black people, targeting them with excessive and lethal force, even as they protest the injustice. While the recent deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor have motivated movements of protest around our Nation and other parts of the world, we cannot forget Eric Garner, Philando Castile, Stephon Clark, and so many others who have lost their lives.

At this time, we need to care, we need to listen, and we need to act.

We at SEE *care* for one another. Empathy is one of our strongest tools and we need to show love, compassion and understanding. To all our SEE Students and Alumni, reach out to your fellow SEE students and friends. Connect and check to see how they are doing. Faculty and Staff who are reading this, reach out to students and colleagues. Let them know you are there for them. We encourage you all to reach out to your Black peers. The deaths and injustices at the hands of the very people who are supposed to protect us all are hurtful. Reach out to your peers affected by DACA. Their status in this country is being threatened at this very moment. And, reach out to your peers in the Asian American/Pacific Islander community who are experiencing hate as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic racist rhetoric.

We, at SEE, *listen* to one another. As you reach out to your peers to check on them, listen to what they have to say if they are open to dialogue. Do not ask them to explain how they feel. Do not ask them to explain how they are affected. Just listen and reflect on how our actions, and our inactions, affect others. It is hard to hear truths, but it is our responsibility to listen and learn. If you are the one who needs a friendly ear, reach out to your peers, faculty, staff and mentors.

We, at SEE, *act* against violence, inequity and injustice. Our SEE Family is very diverse. Students in the SEE Program are from the Black community. Students in the SEE Program are from the Asian American/Pacific Islander community. Students in the SEE Program are from the DACA community. Students from the SEE Program are from the LGBT+ community. Students from the SEE Program reflect our society. According to our program's goals to foster inclusion of diverse perspectives in health care, science &

math research and education that are attentive to the needs of our pluralistic society, we have developed a plan of action to serve our students:

- We will be holding a Zoom session for current SEE students and recent graduates to provide an outlet for communication. A notice will follow shortly from the SEE Canvas site.
- We will be distributing a survey to collect information of your needs.
- We will provide a list of resources, where you can learn how to help. A post will follow shortly from the SEE Canvas site and we will also provide a link on the SEE listserv.
- We will continue to provide support, understanding and assistance to our students, faculty and staff to the best of our collective efforts.
- We will not tolerate acts of racism and bias amongst our members. Any reports of racist, bias, or injustice acts will be addressed immediately.

While we may not all be physically together, and the SEE Office remains closed, we are here for you. Please feel free to reach out to see@csus.edu, and we will return your e-mail as soon as we can. You may also reach out to us individually at our E-mail addresses listed below.

If you need additional support, contact Student Health and Counseling Services (<https://www.csus.edu/student-life/health-counseling/counseling/>) 916-278-6461.

SEE Faculty and Staff Supporters, please contact the Employee Assistance Program (<https://www.csus.edu/administration-business-affairs/internal/your-hr/benefits/employee-assistance-program.html>) if you need additional support.

Yours in Solidarity,

Enid T. González-Orta
gonzalezorta@csus.edu

Mary McCarthy Hintz
mccarthy@csus.edu

Semarhy Quiñones
e.quinones-soto@csus.edu

Richard Aguirre
aguirre@csus.edu

Michael Wright
m.wright@csus.edu