

## Lest We Forget -

Imagine a time when it was unlawful for Black people to eat at a restaurant, sit in the front of a bus, attend schools with White individuals, live, rent, or buy a home or apartment in certain areas; when it was unlawful for Black people and other people of color, immigrants, and women to vote; when persons with disabilities were judged on separate grounds for admission, care, or instruction.

Imagine a time when it was lawful and socially acceptable to deny employment or promotion, or pay a lesser wage, to people of color, immigrants, women, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, or people based on their religious beliefs; when it was unlawful for a White person to marry anyone except for a White person; or when an LGBTQ+ individual could not marry a person of the same sex or even express themselves openly.

Imagine a time when it was unlawful to print, publish, circulate, present, or argue in favor of social equality. More than mere imaginings, this was the lived reality of the Jim Crow laws enforced from the 1890s - 1960s in the South as well as in our own state of California.

Now, imagine a future where acknowledgement of these historical truths ignites liberation from them. Imagine a future where those who held power in our society are celebrated and rewarded for social justice and equality. Imagine a future where society itself worked to expose past human and civil rights violations and empowered the next generation to act boldly; where whole communities could never easily be forgotten; where the media and our education systems discussed the hard truth and ensured the young develop the capacity for civic-minded leadership, social justice, and a full understanding of the democratic values on which this very nation is founded.

While, it is critically important to never forget the past atrocities of our nation, it is equally vital that we change current behaviors, practices, and choices that reproduce the status quo or perpetuate a hierarchy of human value. It is our collective responsibility to each other, and the social promise outlined during the Civil Rights Movement to keep the movement alive. Remembrance must be coupled with present-day vigilance, so that we do not repeat the destructive legacy of our inherited past. On Monday, Jan. 17, 2022, we will observe the 93rd birthday of the father of the civil rights movement, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

As we observe this holiday and prepare our campus for our Antiracism and Inclusive Convocation on Feb. 14, 2022, I encourage you to spend some time reflecting on the ways, we as a Hornet Community contribute to the equality, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging of every individual on our campus, in the Sacramento region, and the nation.

In partnership,

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VP for Inclusive Excellence and UDO

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