

Statement of Solidarity

From faculty members of the Community College of Rhode Island

June 7, 2020

As faculty members of the Community College of Rhode Island, we are deeply disturbed by the murder of George Floyd and the continual brutalization of black and brown people, which stems from the systemic racism that has plagued our country for centuries.

Collectively, we acknowledge and stand against the racism that has been institutionalized in our society and that has caused much social, economic, and educational inequity in our communities. We commit ourselves to working toward dismantling systemic racism, which is based on white supremacy, through our work in and out of the College.

To our students of color, their allies, and the entire CCRI community: we know that this work will be difficult and uncomfortable. Some of us will have to spend more time listening and learning without defensiveness or unnecessary guilt. Some of us will have to be supportive and patient with allies who mean well but need guidance navigating issues they might not have ever had to seriously consider. Some of us will have to explore the differences between individual racism and systemic racism and honestly reconsider some of our attitudes about race. Many of us chose to work at CCRI because we believe in the mission to make education accessible to all members of the community. Education can promote equality and equity, and we hope that our diverse student body feels supported, respected, and heard by those of us who teach at CCRI.

We realize that life adds an extra burden for people of color and, unfortunately, these burdens can range from being misjudged to being killed by the hands of the law. We want you to know that we see you, we acknowledge your race, and we know that your lives matter. This should no longer be a burden that one community must bear alone.

We know that all lives are supposed to matter, but we realize that this will never be true in America until Black Lives Matter. We stand in solidarity as we try to make the kind of change that can “[re]form a more perfect union.”

Signed:

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Cheryl Amantea

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Joe Arsenault

(signatures continue on next page)

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