

The recent murders of Tony McDade, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Ahmaud Arbery underscore yet again the systemic anti-Black racism that is foundational to the United States. Calls for justice for them and their families must be heard and acted on.

We acknowledge the pain and grief of Black communities nationally and around the world and we support people's protest. We are listening to Black leadership.

We are in solidarity with Black students, faculty, and staff. We know that this term has already been difficult, in particular for our students, faculty, and staff of color whose communities are disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These impacts are compounded by pervasive trans- and homophobia, sexism, and misogyny.

We vow to continue teaching histories of resistance to anti-Black racism and to inspire new creative acts of resistance today. We commit to being a refuge and a training ground. As Jamilah Pitts reminds us, "Teaching as an act of resistance and teaching as an act of healing are not mutually exclusive."¹ In this spirit, our white faculty and non-Black faculty of color commit to listening and responding to the needs of our Black colleagues and students. We reaffirm our mission to teach and learn with our students who wish to create a new world where Black Lives Matter.

In Solidarity,

Natchee Blu Barnd, ES
Bradley Boovy, WGSS/WLC
Qwo-Li Driskill, WGSS
Patti Duncan, WGSS
Michael Floyd, WGSS
Patricia Fifita, ES

Kryn Freehling-Burton, WGSS
Janet Lee, WGSS
David G. Lewis, ES
Cari Maes, WGSS
Marta Maria Maldonado, ES
Ron Mize, WGSS/ES

Nana Osei-Kofi, WGSS
H Rakes, WGSS
Adam Schwartz, WLC
Susan Shaw, WGSS
Lily Sheehan, WGSS/English
Mehra Shirazi, WGSS

¹ <https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/fall-2016/dont-say-nothing>