

June 3, 2020 Update

Hello Healers,

In my letter to you this past weekend, as we once again bore painful witness to continued racial inequality and systemic racism in our country, I quoted from our *Handbook*:

Our college's statement on diversity says that we recognize each "individual is a unique and multidimensional being with inherent worth and dignity who deserves to be treated with consideration, empathy, humaneness, kindness, respect, [and] trust . . . "

Many of you were kind to send me a note of thanks for my words. I thank you for that. I also know that unless we commit ourselves as a college to being healers and helpers, to living out what we profess in our Handbooks and written notes and posts, they will just remain words on various pages.

We know that Covid-19 disproportionately impacts communities of color. Such disparities, to extend the metaphor from my weekend letter, have deep roots in our country's racial history.

As we move from words to specific actions, I invite you to join us for a conversation.

Earlier today, Dr. Stovall sent out a reflection and referenced three upcoming listening WebEx Sessions. In our commitment to honor brave spaces and reflection, The Diversity Council has arranged for three different listening sessions. Please [register](#) for a session. A WebEx link will be emailed one hour before the start of each session. The three sessions are as follows:

- A. Students of Color –Facilitated by Dr. Alethea Stovall and Ash Wimes **(Thursday, June 4th at 3:00 PM)**
- B. All Student Session – Facilitated by Dr. Alethea Stovall, Ash Wimes, and Brenda Neemann **(Thursday, June 4th at 4:00 PM)**
- C. Faculty/Staff – Facilitated by Dr. Alethea Stovall, Ash Wimes, and Diversity Council **(Monday, June 8th at 12:00 PM)**

I trust that we will, as healers and helpers, identify specific steps that we can take--and steps that we will continue over time so that our efforts build their own deep roots of systemic change--as we affirm and live out the values we believe in. I look forward to your input and to the work ahead in the days, months, and years to come.

In her novel *Beloved*, Toni Morrison's main character, Sethe, says "love is or it ain't. Thin love ain't love at all." I don't want recent words of commitment to end up being "thin." Time for "thick" love.

Reminders:

Our plan for fall instruction was sent to you all on May 5. A reminder that an update will be sent on June 15.

Be Safe. Be Well. Be Healers and Helpers.

Rich Lloyd, President