

Diversity Equity and Global Awareness Committee's Statement

We are experiencing a lot right now. This is a time in history that will forever change our lives and our society as we know it; in the middle of a global health pandemic, we are painfully reminded that historical oppression and racism continue to plague our nation. But, in this moment of pain that our community is experiencing, each of us has the power to ensure that from this pain will emerge positive, lasting change. It is obvious that considerable work needs to be done to achieve racial equity and justice, and DEGA is committed to moving the SCC community forward with deliberate actions and thoughtful conversations, which will contribute to positive change within our culture.

As an educational institution, we have an obligation to ensure that we create safe spaces for authentic and difficult conversations to take place. Such conversations likely won't feel comfortable, and frankly they shouldn't. Each of us should, at the very least, feel uncomfortable with the inequality that penetrates all aspects of our society, and we must be willing to speak out against injustice. However, it is not merely the responsibility of our students or colleagues of color to educate us on what it means to be a respectful and kind human being. In this moment, we need allies to take a stand.

We must demand equity and civility in everything we do, and we must strive to listen and learn from one another. We must dismantle systems and processes which perpetuate racism and white supremacy. In the words of [Bishop Desmond Tutu](#), silence is not an option: "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."

Each of us need to be willing to take action to put an end to racism, by:

- Listening to and amplifying the voices of people of color, which continue to be shut down and pushed aside as a result of a nation founded on white supremacy.
- Educating yourself and becoming better informed on the topics such as systemic racism and white fragility by reading, researching, and seeking out the voices and experiences of people of color. The SCC Teaching and Learning Center is a great resource for this as well.
- Engaging in conversations and events provided by SCC DEGA committee, Hagan and Multicultural Centers, and Global Education Office.
- Participating in Safe Campus Advocate trainings provided throughout the year.

[SCC will not tolerate the inhumane treatment of others](#), and it is the responsibility of each of us to advocate for justice, equity and anti-racism. By taking action today, let's use this moment of deep pain to build relationships, learn from one another and using the lens of anti-racism, create a stronger, more just and united SCC community for tomorrow.