



Spokane Community College

Office of the President

Kevin Brockbank, Ed.D

President

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Dear SCC Community:

On May 25, 2020 the murder of George Floyd painfully reminded us that our nation continues to suffer from the persistence of racism, discrimination and a legacy of oppression. The shooting of Jacob Blake earlier this week has reaffirmed that nothing has changed in the past three months. Our country seems to have much work left before we can claim that we have truly created a society where everyone is treated as though “all men (individuals) are created equal.” This is something we must all come to terms with, in order to be part of the solution.

“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” (SCC DEGA Committee Statement). We also have an obligation to ensure that **our college, our systems, our processes and our environment are designed in a way that is inclusive and welcoming of the community we serve, whether it is a place to work, or a space to pursue a college education**. It is critical that SCC not only demonstrates support of anti-racism and inclusiveness but validates that support through action, results, and accountability.

As our college moves closer to the start of another academic year it is time for us to turn our verbal commitment into a plan of action. We must take careful inventory of the work that has been done up to this point around diversity, equity, and inclusion so we can use that as a source of guidance for future efforts. We must reevaluate, reinvent and refocus our work around anti-racism in a way that ensures outcomes which produce real results for the students and employees of SCC. We must organize that work in a way that drives our student success efforts and makes us accountable to ourselves, our students and all stakeholders of SCC. It is most important that the foundation of this anti-racism work at SCC be one of action rather than words. Action that is sustainable, impactful and transformational.

I am asking that we all start the process to meet these challenges at SCC by personally reflecting on our perceptions, values, experiences and actions as they relate to the issues we are confronting and how you might contribute to the obligations SCC has in this important work. My commitment to you is that our college will be fully prepared to take on a renewed effort around racial equity as we begin the fall quarter. I invite you to join me in this challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Brockbank', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

President Brockbank

#BlackLivesMatter