

A LETTER TO THE UW TACOMA COMMUNITY

June 4, 2020

Dear Huskies:

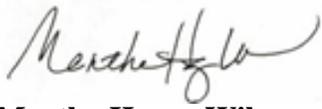
On behalf of the Division of Student Affairs, it pains us to have to echo the sentiments expressed by UW President Ana Mari Cauce, by the tri-campus Chief Diversity Officers, UW Tacoma Chancellor Mark Pagano, and by our very own ASUWT leadership in condemning the senseless violence and racial injustice that, in recent weeks, claimed four more Black lives: Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Manuel Ellis. Their lives matter. Their stories matter.

Racism is embedded in the very fabric of America, and arguably is this country's most prevailing, insidious unfinished business. We share your anger, sadness, and defenselessness. We are overcome with emotions; we are exhausted. The recurrent media images of yet another Black life being viciously extinguished by police brutality are shocking and vicariously traumatizing. The nationwide demonstrations and protests signal that our communities are tired and seek justice, peace, and equality.

These abhorrent acts against Black and Brown communities affect us all, and in specific ways. While we will engage with our emotions individually, in community, and on our own timeline, one thing is clear – together we must act. Each of us must lead change within our individual communities and spheres of influence to actively disrupt racism at the individual, societal, and systemic levels. Through our grief and anger, we are also resolved to help UW Tacoma evolve into an anti-racist organization. We will answer President Cauce's call to 'weep, then act.'

To our Black students, know that your Husky family sees, supports, and stands with you. Here in this place, you are valued, you are wanted, and you are not alone.

In solidarity and support,



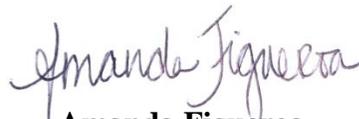
Mentha Hynes-Wilson
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs



Bernard Anderson, Ph.D.
Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life



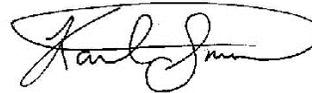
Anna Chatman
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Karl Smith
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