



June 2, 2020

Dear Cañada Community,

Over these past few days our country has experienced tremendous sorrow, outrage, grief and fear as we witness, yet again, the ongoing disregard for human life. The video footage of George Floyd's last moments has left many of us in shock. The 46-year-old African American man died, pleading for air, as a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck during an arrest. For generations African Americans have endured economic, political, and social violence in the United States. The murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor at the hands of police is only the latest episode in a story that dates back centuries. I share this open letter with you as it is heartbreaking that we live in a society which does not value ALL human life.

The overt racism in our society has always been there. It seems all the more tormenting as video recordings captured several more cases where unarmed African-American men and women were killed while engaged in mundane daily activities, near or in the privacy of their homes.

Black lives matter. Their lives and their names matter, as do the many others who, over generations, have been killed, often without a video recording to document their anguish. Their deaths let us know that racism is alive and well in our country. Racism touches the lives of our family, friends, our classmates, our peers, and our neighbors. We must each condemn the systemic racism that both enables and protects these vile acts of violence and disregard for human life.

Institutionalized racism must be eliminated. We are committed to anti-racism work – in our classrooms, in our college and in our communities. We will heed American Educational Research Association (AERA) President Shaun Harper's call to "unite to take bold, evidence-based action that exposes and ultimately ends the catastrophic police killings of unarmed Black people."

I know many of us are asking the same question. Why? Why does this keep happening and why is no one being held accountable? In order to answer that question, we need to start with our communities and with ourselves. We must do better and be better, and to salvage our humanity, we will.

On **June 8**, Cañada College will host two critical conversations with the goal of healing, unpacking, and processing as a community. We will have a morning and afternoon session to accommodate different schedules. Both conversations will be an unscripted, all-college virtual space for us to dialogue as a campus. The morning session will start at 9 a.m. and the afternoon session will take place at 1 p.m.

Each conversation will include a framework for engaging in this important dialogue as well as an opportunity to suggest ideas for future events and conversations. The dates, times, and links are included below. All Cañada College faculty, staff, and students are invited to participate and will need to register via a Zoom webinar.

### **ALL-COLLEGE CONVERSATIONS – Monday, June 8, 2020**

9 – 10:30 a.m.

Register [here](#).

1-2:30 p.m.

Register [here](#).

Our call to action for our campus community is also to register and participate in the free five-part-**Zoom Summer Learning Institute: Minding the Obligation Gap in Community Colleges and Beyond.**

June 11, 2020 12-2 p.m.	Defining the Obligation Gap	<a href="#">Register</a>
June 16, 2020 12-2 p.m.	The Obligation Gap and Programming	<a href="#">Register</a>
June 23, 2020 12-2 p.m.	Discussing the Pedagogy Gap	<a href="#">Register</a>
July 8, 2020, 12-2 p.m.	Equity, Shared Governance and Faculty Leadership	<a href="#">Register</a>
July 14, 2020, 12-2 p.m.	Community College as Disruptive Technology	<a href="#">Register</a>

In closing, please know that we stand with ALL of our students, staff, our community and all people of color. We stand with all of you who have been denied opportunities because of your name, your identity or skin color. Please know that we join you in solidarity and in this fight. In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Thank you,

Jamillah Moore, President

Tammy Robinson, Vice President of Instruction

Graciano Mendoza, Vice President of Administration

Manuel Alejandro Pérez, Vice President of Student Services

Diana Tedone-Goldstone, Academic Senate President

Jeanne Stalker, Classified Senate President

Adrian Afif, Student Body President