



We, the Employee Forum, as the advocacy body for the University's Staff employees, stand in solidarity with our co-workers of color and marginalized communities. We are horrified by the continuing systemic racism and injustice that affects our entire community, but disproportionately affects communities of color, especially the Black/African American community.

The unrelenting frenzy of the past three months to transform operations, to meet changing expectations, to stay connected from the isolation of our homes, to find spaces to be human in a dehumanizing pandemic, and then to bear witness to the pain and suffering of vulnerable coworkers, friends and family altogether is taking a toll.

We are weary. Still, as elected delegates, we took a pledge to improve the lives of Staff, Faculty and Students on this campus and we do not take that pledge lightly. Improving the lives of our Staff, Faculty and Students of color improves the lives of all Staff, Faculty and Students.

The Employee Forum asks all campus partners and allies to please open your hearts to this pain that you may not fully understand by pledging to listen and provide loving support.

To our fellow Staff who are members of the Black/African American community, please know that we stand with you in solidarity to fortify your spirit. We will walk with you on this tiresome journey for as long as it takes.

Our common welfare depends on unity, and unity is an action word. Let us commit to continue to build our community together through mutual understanding, authentic kindness, and fearless loving support.

Love wins.

Always.

Shayna Hill, Employee Forum Chair

Katie Musgrove, Employee Forum Vice Chair

Tiffany Carver, Employee Forum Secretary