

Dear NCC Community:

Since March, Nassau Community College and the entire world has been navigating through uncharted territories with the COVID-19 pandemic. The crisis caused by this virus has resulted in special events being canceled such as graduation celebrations, vacations, and even weddings. Exacerbating this time of uncertainty were the most horrific events which included the tragic deaths of Ahmaud Arbery (2/23/20), Breonna Taylor (3/13/20), and George Floyd (5/25/20). The circumstances surrounding the deaths of these African American men, and woman reveal the overwhelming sad truth that there is still much more work we need to do as a society to eradicate racism, injustice and violence.

As we were reminded in Dr. Williams's communication on Monday, we are a broadly diversified community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, family, and friends who personally share in the grief and outrage that weighs heavily on the members of our NCC Community. We believe that one should not be judged because of their skin color, gender, identity, ethnicity, national origin, ethnicity, religion, ability, sexuality, or political ideology. We are committed to inclusion, we require respect for the dignity and worth of each individual, and we endeavor to provide an environment where diversity and the free exchange of ideas can flourish. It is recorded throughout world history in government and business when communities work on their own instead of as a team, they are each doomed to fail, thus the saying; "United we stand, divided we fall". We realize that there are diverse opinions about the recent tragic events, the events that followed, and what should be done next. However, it is our hope that we can all agree with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere".

Though we are not physically together on campus you are in our thoughts and we hope the best for you and your families, and your home communities. We take hope in knowing that Nassau Community College is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in every aspect of the institute, and we remain proud of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. We will overcome these extraordinary times because collectively we are extraordinary people.

In concert with the Office of the Dean of Students, next week, I am scheduling an open forum for students to come together as a community to discuss their concerns and ideas. A similar forum will be scheduled for faculty and will be led by myself and Chair of Academic Senate, Anissa Moore. We look forward to a productive an open exchange.

Nassau Strong!

Sincerely,

Dr. Craig J. Wright, CDO/Associate Vice President
Equity, Inclusion, Affirmative Action
ADA-504 Officer & Title IX Officer