

The UCLA Center for Community Learning stands in solidarity with #BlackLivesMatter and the multiracial, interfaith coalition that is protesting police brutality and calling for systemic change. We are outraged by the brutal murder of George Floyd, and we mourn the senseless killings of Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery, and so many other Black brothers and sisters at the hands of the police. We acknowledge that lethal and discriminatory police actions are but the tip of the iceberg. The 400-year history of settler colonialism, white supremacy, and racism is still very much present in our country today, across public and private institutions in all sectors of society.

We pledge to imbue our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion with an explicit commitment to anti-racism in our work to advance community engagement and social change. We will take an honest look at ourselves and commit to grow—as individuals, as colleagues, as educators, as campus leaders and as partners to community organizations. This applies to the Center’s hiring and work with staff, TA’s and graduate student researchers. This means taking the time to further learn and to carefully listen to our BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) colleagues, students and community partners. This means embedding anti-racism materials in the syllabi of both the courses in the Community Engagement and Social Change minor and also the 195CE internship courses to examine and challenge racism in the workplace. It means allying and partnering with community organizations to advance anti-racism efforts to re-imagine and re-enact our social institutions, whether that means closing the racial disparities in education and health, combating the racism at the heart of present-day anti-immigration policies, dismantling the carceral state and the criminalization of the homeless, or working for environmental justice. Through these efforts, we can realize our core mission to educate the next generation of civic leaders and advance a transformative agenda of social justice by creating collaborative university-community partnerships rooted in respect and reciprocity.