

Statement of Solidarity

The dramatic shift from taking a person's breath away by hanging from a tree, to taking their breath away by a knee pressed to their neck, while lying on the ground, presents a macabre picture of our country today. Our collective inhumanity is on show in this movement from vertical lynching to horizontal lynching. Then there is the in-your-face reminder of threats of violence and their toll. The resultant response of vigorous protests suggests that this development is intolerable to a vast number of people who saw themselves and their kin as possible recipients of that same kind of treatment. What the country and the world saw is spectacularly problematic and unacceptable. The Department of Political Science and the Master of Public Administration Program reaffirm their continuing commitment, through our curriculum delivery, research and scholarship, student engagement and programming, to studying, uncovering and analyzing the harm which results in humanity's suffering. We acknowledge and stand in solidarity with those fighting against all systems of oppression and marginalization. As educators, we are dedicated to creating classrooms of inclusion and belonging. We seek to equip our students with the tools necessary to examine current political, social, and economic arrangements that perpetuate injustice, inequality and dehumanization, and which disproportionately affect communities of color. With this statement we join all who pursue a just society committed to upholding the dignity and worth of all people.

June 3, 2020