



OFFICE OF INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

Dear Auburn Family,

Over the past four weeks, our community has intently followed the trial of Derek Chauvin. On April 20, the jury reached three guilty verdicts for the killing of George Floyd. We continue to think about the family, community, and loved ones of George Floyd during this time.

Across the nation, the trauma, sadness, pain, and fear experienced on the day of George Floyd's death is unforgettable. Our community has embarked on a renewed and reaffirmed journey toward ensuring all individuals on our campus are able to thrive and reach their full potential. Across the Auburn Family, we have engaged in conversation, strategic work, reflection, and have challenged ourselves and others. We are better as a community because of this hard work.

The team in the Office of Inclusion and Diversity looks forward to continuing the work of diversity, equity, and inclusion, particularly the ongoing work of the [Presidential Task Force for Opportunity and Equity](#). The foremost priorities today are care, community, and support in this moment as we head toward the end of the spring semester. As we move forward, please remember these opportunities to find community and support in the following resources.

- The Office of Inclusion and Diversity, in partnership with the [Student Counseling and Psychological Services](#), will host a Brave Space for our community to process and reflect. This will take place virtually on Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm, please register at this [link](#).
- On April 20th, the [Cross Cultural Center for Excellence](#), located in the Harold D. Melton Student Center, held space for students, faculty, and staff wanting to process with their colleagues and peers. We look forward to others finding space in the center.

- The Auburn University [Student Counseling and Psychological Services](#) remains available to students in need of their resources and support. [Student Counseling and Psychological Services](#) hosts an ongoing Black Experience (Excellence) Drop-in Discussion group that meets online Thursdays from 4:00-5:00 pm, students just call 334-844-5123 to express interest. [Auburn Cares](#) is also available for those experiencing increased difficulties.
- For employees, the [Employee Assistance Program](#) remains available as you navigate the balance of your work, life and challenges.

Ultimately, the diversity and interconnectedness of our community is our strength. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our care and communication for one another has looked different, given the restrictions required to keep us safe and healthy. Nevertheless, we have persisted in our commitment to our friends, classmates, peers, colleagues, and neighbors. That gives me immeasurable hope for the future.