

Chicago State University
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Dear Chicago State University Community,

These are difficult times for our city, our nation and our world. While we have all experienced the challenging circumstances that have come with managing our personal and professional lives inside of a global pandemic, there remain other issues that have been cast in a larger and disturbing light due to recent events. The country now sees more clearly the health, wealth and digital challenges faced by minority communities that make living through each day a struggle. We now face events of racial injustice yet again.

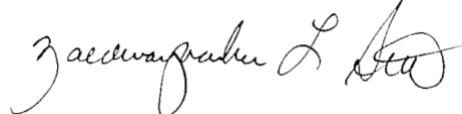
The death of George Floyd has further widened a wound in America that never seems to heal. The wound shows us that unfortunately, the spirit and reality of racism thrives and lives on. Many corporate leaders, elected and police officials, and others have come forward to express outrage for the act witnessed against Mr. Floyd. These acts of racial injustice further demonstrate the gulf between the people of our nation. It is beyond time to move past rhetoric. We must consider the real work that will bring meaningful change.

At Chicago State University, our work is grounded in equity. As the State of Illinois' only four-year U.S. Department of Education-designated Predominantly Black Institution ("PBI"), we see firsthand the bias and racism that impacts our students and surrounding communities. We oppose hate and those structural institutions that reinforce exclusion. As a highly accessible university, we strive to use the power of education to transform lives and strengthen communities. We must recommit ourselves to this work. We must do so with the understanding that it is imperative that we do this work together as a community, staying true to our mission, values and goals that provide the foundation of our 153-year history.

Let us all speak out strongly against racist acts and let us all call for accountability. As an institution of higher education, we will continue to lift and support our students and our community with a renewed sense of purpose. We call upon our colleges and universities to fully invest in improved outcomes for Black student success. In the coming days, Chicago State University will begin convening higher education thought partners to collectively identify strategies and policies that eliminate barriers to access and completion for Black students.

Higher education leads to the creation of thought leaders who can help define solutions and now more than ever, our students are needed to be developed into community leaders to provide new directions towards social justice for lasting change.

Sincerely,



Zaldwaynaka Scott, Esq.
President