

From: Heather Schulte [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 1:39 PM
To: Timothy Clare; Jack Stark; James Pillen; Elizabeth O'Connor; Robert Schafer; Paul Kenney; Robert Phares; Barbara Weitz
Subject: Proposed Resolution

Non-NU Email

To the University of Nebraska Board of Regents,

Good afternoon. I am writing you today out of concern for the future of our nation, university, our younger generations, and the accuracy with which we, as their elders, teach our country's history.

I am a UNL alumni, graduated in 2003, and was born and raised in Bellevue, daughter of a 26-year Air Force veteran (Vietnam and Cold War Vet, son of a WWII Vet). I am grateful for my upbringing and education in our state. I married a UNL grad, School of Dentistry class of 2005, who also served in the Air Force for 10 years. My father is from rural Alabama, just outside of Montgomery. His mother's family traces back beyond the Civil War, in which some of my ancestors fought for the confederacy. His father was a third generation American, whose grandparents immigrated from Poland. My mother is a first generation American, whose parents immigrated from Puerto Rico and Spain; she grew up in NYC, and had a career with the Corps of Engineers.

As you can see, I have a wide variety of experiences, histories, and perspectives that shape and color my life.

These perspectives are a living example of some of what I understand to be ideals of these United States: that we are a nation of many, striving to work together for the benefit of all. In order to do so, we must be honest and own the failures of our past (and present) in order to break harmful cycles of racism, sexism, discrimination and oppression of any and all kinds.

I implore you to vote against adopting Mr. Pillen's resolution opposing Critical Race Theory. One does not have to agree with CRT in order to do so, but rather seek to allow the university and its professors, instructors, researchers, etc., to teach with the very freedom this resolution claims CRT denies. This theory asserts that our country's wealth, power, and success is largely due to its actions oppressing and enslaving people, notably the native inhabitants of these beautiful lands and African peoples stolen from their homelands. I agree, as without the economic bounty available to us through the land we took and the labor we forced, we would have not had the ability to grow this nation independently of the wealth and might of the colonizing countries (namely England, France, and Spain). While by and large we have all agreed that our historical treatment of Native and Black peoples was horrific and evil, we have yet to fully embrace the legacy of centuries of slavery, ideas of "Manifest Destiny," and how these still shape our country today. It is essential that we not water these central facts of WHY America exists and HOW it came to be a powerful country, so that we can learn, together WHAT we must do now and in the future to live up to our ideals of freedom for ALL.

Of course racism and slavery and oppression are not ALL that defines America, or the only reason it succeeded in growing into the country we know and love. It is far more complicated, layered, and nuanced than that. I remember learning about the Oregon Trail, the difficulties endured by the pioneers, and vying for time playing the video game in elementary school. I also do not recall learning about any of the treaties we made with the nations in our region, nor how we broke every. single. one. I remember learning about the Civil Rights Movement, and Dr. King's amazing work, the the extreme violence he endured. I never learned about black communities in the Midwest, made of largely formerly enslaved peoples and their descendants as they fled the south after the Civil War (some before), or the redlining that shaped our local cities, or really anything positive about

communities of color in North Omaha.

My mother's family ethos was, essentially, assimilate to survive. She could be a "great American success story," as her parents came to this country with nothing, and all their children worked their way through college and were able to build prosperous lives for their own families. Yet, I do not have one Puerto Rican recipe, my mother does not speak Spanish, the labor we STILL depend on to for our basic functioning as a country is largely (Hispanic/Latinx) immigrant work (legal or not) NOT merely our technological prowess or the wealth of tycoons like Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, or Mark Zuckerberg. If we are to be a nation of integrity, we must be honest about these truths, and what it takes for our citizens to not merely survive, but thrive, and how they often must sacrifice their own cultures and histories to do so. Too many of our neighbors are far from thriving, and if we continue this trajectory of extreme wealth at the cost of extreme poverty, sameness at the cost of diversity, our nation's strength will be short lived.

To see CRT as a threat, rather than one way we can listen to the people we have oppressed and used, is to perpetuate our history of ignoring and denying these voices, refusing to reckon with and atone for the evils that still affect millions of our fellow citizens, and risks undermining the very freedom of speech we claim to hold so dear.

With sincere hope that our best is yet before us,
Heather (Glenboski) Schulte