



Andy Cole <bc14713@georgiasouthern.edu>

A message from OIE and OMA: Standing Together

1 message

Communications and Marketing <communications@georgiasouthern.edu> Sun, May 31, 2020 at 11:53 AM
To: GS-FacStaff <gs-facstaff@georgiasouthern.edu>, GS-Students <gs-students@georgiasouthern.edu>

May 31, 2020

To: The University community

From: Office of Inclusive Excellence and Office of Multicultural Affairs

Earlier this month, we wrote to you all regarding the shooting death of Ahmaud Arbery, the African American jogger who was killed in Glynn County, Georgia. It breaks our heart to write to the Georgia Southern University family again to express our hurt, pain, and sadness regarding the killing of George Floyd. We make no excuses for these events and condemn any violence that impedes personhood, regardless of the source. We extend our deepest condolences to the families involved and all members of our learning community who are personally affected by these tragedies—especially our students, faculty, and staff of color.

We fully support our community as they exercise their 1st Amendment rights to peacefully assemble and express themselves. Our hope and full intention are to aid our community in doing so, authentically and safely.

At Georgia Southern University, our greatest catalyst against racial intolerance and intolerance of all kind is education. Education is the key to being change agents and helping ensure our community continues to move toward Inclusive Excellence—the understanding that our success as an institution is dependent on how well we engage in all matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The Office of Inclusive Excellence (OIE) and the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) are working together to develop and promote space to support opportunities to fully honor our students. It's also important to note that our support mechanisms are not, and should never be, limited to the OIE and OMA. Meaningful actions by our community, in all forms, catapult us toward our value of Inclusive Excellence. Every member of Eagle Nation has an obligation to promote Inclusive Excellence by ensuring our environment is equitable, safe, engaging, and fosters a sense of belonging. Please also continue to use the Counseling Center and University Police Department as resources of support during these challenging times.

As an institution, we are working diligently to turn our ideas into tangible action. This summer, we will be adopting and sharing our inaugural Inclusive Excellence Action Plan. As we continue drafting our roadmap, please let us know directly what steps we can take to improve your experiences using our Inclusive Excellence Idea Catcher: <https://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/diversity/inclusive-excellence-idea-catcher/>.

Please take every measure to take care of yourselves during this time and know that your well-being is our highest priority as well.

