

A Message From the Interim Dean

Interim Dean, Tosha Dupras <tosha.dupras@ucf.edu>

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Dear Staff, Faculty and Students of the College of Sciences,

I am deeply shocked and saddened by the recent and continued events across the U.S. involving violence against the black community. While these events are rooted in a long history of systemic and institutional racism in the U.S., there are no rationalizations nor amends that can be made for the fact that there are individuals throughout the U.S. whose lives are unsafe on a daily basis because of the color of their skin. Those in positions of power and/or privilege have a choice – to remain silent or to speak up. This is not the time for complacency or indifference.

As the Interim Dean of the College of Sciences, and by the virtue of my skin color, I recognize my role as one of power and privilege. It is from this seat, and my own personal convictions, that I condemn hatred in any form. It is my stance as the leader of the college, that I am committed to providing a safe environment for individuals of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientation and religious beliefs. The College of Sciences strives to be a welcoming community of inclusivity where we can work, learn and interact with each other in a safe space.

I recognize that, considering recent events, and the embedded systemic and institutional racism found throughout our nation, that many of our staff, faculty and students may feel marginalized, fearful, excluded or unsafe. How can we show our compassion and humanity? We extend a hand, we speak out and we reach out to support our friends, colleagues and students of color. To our black and brown faculty, staff and students: I see you, I support you and I grieve with you. **#backlivesmatter #COScares**

I am proud to work at an institution whose President has spoken out against racism ([see President Cartwright's message here](#)), and has committed to creating an inclusive environment at UCF. Justice for all Knights is part of the university's commitment to creating an inclusive and safe campus, and any social or racial bias can be reported to jkrt@ucf.edu. Those student who would like further involvement can volunteer with Social Justice and Advocacy (<http://sja.sdes.ucf.edu/>). I urge you all to participate in [the virtual conversation about race and unity](#) to be held this Friday (June 5th) from 2:00 to 3:30pm.

"It's going to take all of us to do better – to be better – to change our society."

S. Kent Butler

Interim Chief Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Officer, UCF

Sincerely,



TOSHA DUPRAS, PH.D.
Interim Dean, College of Sciences

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