



Black Lives Matter

An Open Statement from MACTE Executive Board

The Massachusetts Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) is a statewide organization dedicated to facilitating steady improvement of educator preparation in the Commonwealth. Our membership is comprised of nearly sixty private and public colleges and universities with educator preparation programs. We are also the state affiliate of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE). In pursuit of our main goal, we are committed to several objectives, but one of our main objectives is to maintain an effective voice for educator preparation at the state level. It is because of our mission and purpose that MACTE is issuing the following statement regarding the May 2020 murder of an unarmed African American man, George Floyd, who was killed by an act of sustained brutality by one police officer while four other officers stood by without intervening. This is a pattern of police behavior that we have seen many times before. Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks, Rem'mie Fells, Riah Milton, Tony McDade, Oluwatoyin Salau and countless others who remain unknown have died as a result of police violence. Today we are speaking out against these heinous crimes in support of all the Black lives ended too early by police brutality.

We recognize that these events could only take place in a culture that perpetuates institutional racism across its economic, health, educational, legal, and criminal justice systems. We understand that systemic racism is the underpinning of the civil unrest we are witnessing in communities around the world. Our Black and brown brothers and sisters are leading a multiracial movement to demand that our local and national leaders address the disparities and injustices that impact the lives of people of color every day.

As educators, we recognize that we are not doing enough to address the disparities and the trauma of racist practices that too often impact the health and achievement of our students of color. MACTE acknowledges the systemic racism implicit in our educational system, evidenced by many factors including the disproportionality of children of color who are placed in special education, suspended or expelled, the prevalence of "zero tolerance" behavioral policies and police officers assigned to high needs schools, the fact that teachers in schools do not reflect the racial makeup of their classrooms, and much more.

The U.S. public school system must reclaim its function as the gatekeeper to equity of opportunity. As teacher educators, we must figure out how to prepare teachers who recognize injustice, who are actively anti-racist, and are prepared to be agents of change. We must work with our PreK-12 schools to disrupt and fix the "achievement/access gap," instead of continuing to wring our hands about its persistence,

We don't want to let the conversation about racism fall silent as we move forward to the coming academic year. To that end, MACTE's leadership will work over the summer to ensure the 2020 fall conference will include opportunities to explore steps that can disrupt practices that both perpetuate racism and fail to address the inequities caused by racism. We will also invite PreK-12 school leaders to join us in our discussions. We hope you will be able to join us as we begin this necessary new chapter of our journey toward racial justice. If you have other feedback for MACTE about ways that you could envision the organization supporting this work outside of the conference, please share those ideas with us.

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