

June 2nd, 2020

To our beloved Winthrop community,

The past week has been one of agony and social injustice. Our condolences go to the families and friends of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, among the numerous others who have lost their lives due to police brutality.

As our institution prides itself on diversity and inclusion, no acts of discrimination or racism shall be tolerated. The Council of Student Leaders stands in solidarity with the fight against systemic racism, systemic oppression, and the racial injustice that has infected our country.

There is no excuse for the consistent violence against Black people in America.

But now, more than ever, action is needed. Although social media has kept us connected throughout the duration of 2020, simply posting and sharing is not enough. To make change, we must come together to unify, amplify, and maximize our voices. We encourage each and every Eagle to use their voice to speak out against injustice everywhere. It is imperative that we stay informed and vote in upcoming elections. We must elect leaders who will challenge institutionalized racism and oppression on the local, state, and national levels. It is up to us to continuously take action until our community not only sees change, but also experiences a community where each and every individual is met with equitable protection under the law and receives the justice we deserve.

We are inspired by so many people in our community using their voices to make change. We see you, we hear you, we are with you. As Interim President Hynd stated, "let all of those with a connection to Winthrop come together and become the change agents needed to address the institutionalized inequities that fuel the disparities in our country."

The Council of Student Leaders is dedicated to upholding and prioritizing our values of diversity, inclusivity, service, and advocacy for the coming years. We encourage our Winthrop community to take an active role in the fight to defeat systemic racism and systematic oppression.

Forever yours,

Brandon Jackson

Student Body President

Brandon Jackson

Ravyn Cunningham

Student Body Vice President