

UC Riverside's Academic Preparation Programs' Statement of Solidarity

In recent weeks, community members mobilized in protest to demand justice in response to the death of George Floyd, one of many recorded acts of violence and unnecessary deaths suffered by the Black community and other communities of color. These protests resonated with people from different backgrounds and catalyzed global demonstrations challenging systemic inequities and institutional racism embedded in our society.

UC Riverside's Academic Preparation Programs stand in solidarity with the Black community and those who have been victims of violence, oppression, and discrimination based on their skin color. We believe that Black lives matter and will continue to support dismantling inequities and empowering students through academic support, mentoring programs, and expanding access to higher education.

It is critical, now more than ever, to reflect upon our history, purpose, and values as academic preparation and support programs that service students and families that are directly impacted by these systemic inequities. In the 1960s, the Civil Rights Movement inspired the passing of legislation that created the federal TRIO programs (Upward Bound, Talent Search, and Student Support Services) to address serious social cultural barriers to education in the United States. In the 1970s, the State of California and University of California established the Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP) in response to pervasive systemic inequities under-represented students and communities face on their pathway to higher education. Locally, the continuing plight of underserved and disenfranchised communities, specifically the lack of resources and safety, during the 1990s influenced the formation of the University Eastside Community Collaborative and its focus on tutoring and providing a safe zone for families and students to learn and engage in the Eastside and University neighborhoods and community.

As UC Riverside's Academic Preparation Programs, our work and efforts to combat these inequities are grounded in our core values, some of which are highlighted below:

- We commit to positively impacting the success of our communities and students by contributing to the eradication of systematic disparities.
- We commit to developing and providing quality services which have a positive effect on our students and communities.
- We demonstrate the highest degree of respect, concern, sensitivity, and understanding for individuals.

The core purpose of our work intrinsically aligns with the demands of justice being made within the current movement and protests. We affirm our commitment to support our students' goals of higher education, continuously evaluate our programs to deliver services that adapt to evolving student needs, and provide resources that open opportunities for the Black community and other underserved communities through access and education.

In Solidarity,

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June 18, 2020