



Channel Islands

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
CHICANA/O STUDIES PROGRAM

## Statement of Solidarity from the Chicana/o Studies Department of CSU Channel Islands

Dear Community,

The Chicana/o Studies Department at CSU Channel Islands grieves and condemns the senseless police killing of George Floyd and the countless other victims of police brutality across this country. We stand in solidarity with those calling for justice and will continue to do the work we do through education and by providing a space for the critical analysis of historical and systemic racism, white supremacy, power and privilege. We will continue to do our work of interrogating institutions (such as the prison industrial complex, immigration detention centers, and the criminal (in)justice system) and the deep examination of all forms of oppression and resistance in the United States and beyond.

Our academic discipline is grounded in social justice and provides students with critical frameworks from which they can apply to contemporary issues in our world and work toward the transformation of society. We believe in the liberatory potential of education and it is with this spirit that we will continue to advocate for the expansion of Ethnic Studies programs (African American/Black Studies, Asian Pacific Islander American Studies, and Native American/Indigenous Studies) on our campus and as a statewide graduation requirement in the California State University and in our K-12 educational system.

The global pandemic of Covid-19 has demonstrated, in unprecedented and glaringly visible ways, the deep racial inequities and disparities of our society, particularly when it comes to access to health care, the disregard of the “essential” working class (particularly those in the industries of food, agriculture, and service), the First Nation Indigenous communities that have been hit hardest disproportionately in the U.S. and the rise of anti-Asian racism and xenophobia. We believe that Ethnic Studies is an intervention in the historical disenfranchisement of Queer Trans People of Color across all systems of education and provides a pro-active solution to the on-going violence we continue to witness. How can we expect society to change its way of thinking and viewing the world when it has never contemplated topics of white supremacy, white privilege and the histories/herstories of People of Color in the U.S.? We echo the statement of CSUCI President Erika Beck in acknowledging that we must “intentionally create spaces where we can fully engage in these challenging, complex and uncomfortable discussions.”

In addition to advocating for the creation and expansion of Ethnic Studies programs, we stress the need for our campus (and others) to examine the ratio of Staff, Administrators, and Faculty of Color to their student and community population and demographics. There is no reason for any department to be deficient of Faculty of Color or, perhaps worse, countenance token representation. We urge our campus to withdraw from the empty verbiage of “diversity,” “inclusion,” “multiculturalism,” and “all lives matter” that masks systems of white supremacy and instead opt for a reframing of campus/student services and hiring practices that reflect *multi-racial/multi-ethnic justice*. To dismantle internalized perspectives that advance processes of white privilege, we demand a cluster hire of 10+ Ethnic Studies-trained faculty across various disciplines on our campus for the next hiring cycle and invite our alumni and community to join in this advocacy.

Finally, we encourage our Chicana/Latina community to have honest conversations with your family, community and friends about the violence of anti-Blackness and what it means to be in true solidarity with our Black sisters, brothers and kin-folk. We must resist the racist rhetoric and policies of President Donald J. Trump to ensure that he does not cause more harm. And let us channel our righteous indignation through a diversity of tactics, whether it be through protesting, voting, writing, or using your education as a weapon for social change.

The Chicana/o Studies Department is here for you and stands with you and our community in solidarity.

**Black Lives Matter.**

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