

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**STATEMENT CONDEMNING SYSTEMIC RACISM IN ALL INSTITUTIONS**

**A CALL TO ACTION**

The University of South Florida College of Education embraces and promotes values of diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice. As a community we are horrified and devastated by the pandemic of racism in this nation.

The tragic police killing of unarmed 46-year-old George Floyd in Minneapolis on Memorial Day, 2020, was not a single event but reflected long historic and systemic control and murder of Black (or) Brown people of color at the hands of law enforcement and in vigilante acts: Rodney King, Trayvon Martin (2012); Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Laquan McDonald, Tamir Rice (2014); Sandra Bland, Jamar Clark, Freddie Gray, Eric Harris, Walter Scott (2015); Philando Castile, Terence Crutcher, Keith Lamont Scott, Michelle Shirley, Delrawn Small, Sylville Smith, Alton Sterling (2016); Botham Jean (2018); Atatiana Jefferson, Marzues Scott (2019); Sean Taylor, and Rayshard Brooks (2020).

The common thread in all these killings is racism: systemic, individual, and anti-Black (or) Brown. As a College of Education, we must actively do more to stand in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and other movements that fight to end systemic racism in all institutions, including systems of public education. The school to prison pipeline is clear evidence of systemic racism in our educational institutions. The policing of Black (or) Brown students of color results in punitive disciplinary practices and policies that reinforce disparities beginning in preschool. Even very young children are placed in handcuffs for minor infractions and subjected to disproportionate rates of suspension and expulsion. The school to prison pipeline is bolstered by implicit bias and curriculum that systemically erases the histories of Black (or) Brown people symbolic and epistemological violence in schools.

education system, PreK-12 through higher education, as well as the critical role that White administrators, faculty, staff, and students can and should play in calling out and dismantling it. This work belongs to everybody, not just to people of color.

We call for our College community <sup>2</sup> administrators, faculty, staff and students <sup>2</sup> to stand together against systemic racism by:

- x Challenging racist ideas within ourselves and within each other, recognizing patterns of racial gaslighting, and learning to see, hear, and acknowledge racism.

x Empowering administrators,