

NWHSU Faculty Senate Statement on the Death of George Floyd

We, the Faculty Senate of Northwestern Health Sciences University, are deeply saddened and disturbed by the death of George Floyd at the hands of members of the Minneapolis Police Department. Both this specific action and the broader pattern of unjust treatment of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color by police departments nationwide go against all our University values: accountability, collaboration, excellence, innovation, respect, and service.

We also acknowledge the fear and uncertainty that has developed for many of us as a result of violence and unrest in our communities following George Floyd's death. We decry the actions of those working against our communities, and we celebrate the actions of those working to care for and rebuild our communities.

As a health science university, we recognize that Black people, along with Indigenous people and other people of color, experience profound health disparities in our country and many others. As an integrative health institution, we know that the varied social, cultural, mental, and emotional aspects of our lives all affect our health. Northwestern Health Sciences University's mission is to prepare the next generation of health care professionals to deliver and advance health care. That preparation must include educating our students about racial health disparities and training them to offer excellent, respectful care to each of their patients and clients.

One of our University promises states that "we look beyond symptoms to understand cause, then co-create solutions." In this case, we must acknowledge incidents of police violence against Black people, but also look beyond these "symptoms" to identify the underlying "cause" as systemic racism and then work with those affected by systemic racism to co-create solutions.

This statement affirms Northwestern Health Sciences University faculty members' commitment to caring for the well-being of others, recognizing and respecting the individual needs of those for whom we care, and creating a healthier world.