
[group-education-all-employees] In response to Atlanta-area shootings, increasing violence against Asian American and Asian communities

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To: group-education-all-employees@ncsu.edu, group-education-grad-students@ncsu.edu, group-education-undergrad-students@ncsu.edu

Dear Colleagues and Students:

I am deeply saddened by the murders of eight human beings, six of whom were women of the Asian American and Asian communities, that occurred in the Atlanta area Tuesday night. The attack comes at a time of horrific intolerance and hatred in our nation and when there is increasing violence targeted at the Asian American and Asian community.

This latest example of violence is another sad and horrific reminder of why our College of Education must continue our urgent work to become anti-racist; to build more diverse, inclusive, and supportive communities across our college, NC State, and beyond; and to prepare culturally-responsive and equity-minded educators who are part of the solution in dismantling racism and hatred.

For those of you who are grieving or who feel threatened or vulnerable, my heart goes out to you. Know that our entire College of Education stands in support of you. If you are a student who needs additional support at this time, please reach out to your advisor, our college's [Student Success and Advising Center](#), or the university's [Counseling Center](#). For faculty and staff, please contact your supervisor or the university's [Faculty & Staff Assistance Program](#).

Whether these latest acts of violence make you feel angry, disheartened, scared, or discouraged, I hope you will join me in channeling those emotions into action to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have a few timely opportunities for you to get involved:

- Join one of our college's [anti-racist working groups](#) that will make recommendations around five key areas that the change agent group for advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion have identified for the college to focus on initially to become anti-racist.
- Participate in the college's Council on Multicultural Initiatives and Diversity (COMID)'s Tuesday Together: [Moment in Time with Doris Derby, Ph.D.: Through the Lens of an American Historian](#), which will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, March 23, 1-2:30 p.m.
- Attend the [2021 Don C. Locke Multiculturalism and Social Justice Symposium](#) featuring National Academy of Education President Gloria Ladson-Billings on Wednesday, March 24, 4:30-6 p.m. In a talk entitled "This is Us! Educating Post Covid/Post Civic Unrest America — Tragedy or Opportunity?," Dr. Ladson-Billings will speak via Zoom on how we can reset education so it truly prepares students for active engagement in a diverse democracy.
- Explore resources related to diversity, equity, and inclusion that the change agent group has previously shared in [the Pack IDEAs newsletter](#).

The murders that occurred Tuesday night sadden me greatly, but they also make me even more determined to ensure our college becomes anti-racist and leads the way at NC State in building a more inclusive and equitable community where all feel welcomed and thrive. Thank you for everything you are doing to be part of this hard but vital work.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Danowitz, D.Ed.
Dean, NC State College of Education

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