

**[group-education-all-employees] Juneteenth and Update on DEI Task Force**

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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:

This Saturday, on [Juneteenth](#), or Freedom Day, we will commemorate the date on which some of the last enslaved African Americans learned of their freedom over 150 years ago. In approaching Juneteenth, as Chancellor Woodson encouraged us in [a message](#) Wednesday afternoon, we ask that all of us reflect on and engage in the important but difficult work we must do to move toward inclusion and equity for all, which includes setting our minds free from thoughts and things that hold us back from being united and working toward justice.

Last summer, our college began work to become an anti-racist college of education, and we announced the formation of a task force to define what it means to be an anti-racist college of education and to identify strategies and actions our college will take to intensify our efforts to build a more diverse, inclusive, and supportive community — both within our college and in the field of education.

As part of its work, our task force for advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion identified five key areas to focus in on initially and built working groups around each area:

- Undergraduate Curriculum/Teacher Preparation Programs/Initial Licensure/Recruitment
- Graduate Curriculum and Experience
- Faculty Professional Development
- Cultural Climate/Sense of Belonging and Community
- Recruitment and Retention

The task force has made considerable progress with over 100 faculty, staff, and students signed up to participate in these working groups, which met at least once during the spring semester to define what it means to be an anti-racist college, to clarify the scope of work, and to discuss what is working, what is not working, and where there are opportunities to improve policy and practice. That work will continue in the fall semester. We will also engage with staff members this summer to continue our work to be a more diverse, inclusive, and supportive community as we return to work in Poe Hall.

As we prepare for those discussions, we encourage you to spend some time this summer thinking about and furthering your own personal and professional development in these important areas related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. You can view our [task force's website](#) and the [archives of our Pack IDEAs newsletter](#) for resources. One additional resource we would like to highlight for faculty is the workshop on decolonizing course syllabi we held in the spring. If you were not able to attend this workshop, you can [view it here](#).

Additionally, NC State's African American Cultural Center has created [this page](#) with information about the history of Juneteenth, events, and resources.

An important part of engaging in anti-racist work and in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in earnest involves self-reflection and what we do in practice on a regular basis. We encourage you to think about how you can contribute to creating a more equitable and just environment for everyone.

We wish you a reflective and meaningful Juneteenth and time for yourself and loved ones this summer.

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