

Dear CSUDH Faculty,

We write to express our unequivocal support for the aims of the *Scholar Strike* actions planned for next week. There has been much in the press about this; if you're looking for a quick primer, you might see yesterday's [post](#) in the Academe blog from the movement's originators, professors Anthea Butler and Kevin Gannon.

As a minority-serving institution founded on social justice, CSU Dominguez Hills is uniquely positioned to take a leadership role in anti-racism education and activism, and lend the full weight of our scholarship and teaching to this work. We oppose police brutality, hate crimes, and violence of all forms against people of color, period. We recognize the daunting responsibility of public colleges and universities to correct social inequities based on systemic and institutionalized racism in order to build a better future. We embrace our responsibility as campus leaders to initiate and support the work ahead.

We have discussed the opportunity the *Scholar Strike* presents with President Parham, whose own [life's work](#) epitomizes and advances this struggle. With his full support, we encourage faculty to use their time with students on September 8 and 9 in part as a "teach-in," to – in the words of Professors Butler and Gannon – "raise awareness of and prompt action against racism, policing, mass incarceration and other symptoms of racism's toll in America."

The commitment to anti-racism as integral to social justice compels many who teach here. For more than a few of us, it's why we came. As you consider the different resources and background materials you might highlight for your students, keep in mind some that are right here at Dominguez Hills, including the *Mervyn M. Dymally African American Political and Economic Institute*, the *Rose Black Resource Center*, and the rest of the *Multi-Cultural Affairs Diversity Network*.

And of course, there's the resource of each other, and the strength we draw from working in a community of committed scholars – evidenced just over the last 24 hours in emails from Mara Lee Grayson, Ximena Cid, and others. Thank you.

We stand ready to support and help your efforts.

Michael E. Spagna, Provost
Laura Talamante, Chair, Academic Senate