



Dear NAGAP Colleague,

In times like this, I feel it is important to be vulnerable and real. I'm heartbroken, in shock, and grieving. I've cried more in the last two weeks than I have in the past two years. The brutality and callousness of the murder of George Floyd cut deep. The recordings of horrified bystanders make it possible for each of us to see and hear the entire gut-wrenching 8 minutes and 46 seconds. His tragic death is a painful reminder of the systemic injustice, inequity, and danger that black and brown people face on a daily basis. Black lives matter, and I believe we have an obligation as leaders to use our power, privilege, and influence to stand up for our colleagues and students and add our voices to the collective demand for change.

NAGAP's core values reinforce our commitment to equity, inclusion, and mutual respect. Our diversity and inclusion statement speaks to encouraging dialogue that fosters professional growth. Never has engaging in a conversation been more essential or the consequences of inaction, ambivalence, or apathy been more dire. We want to go further than simply putting out a statement expressing our outrage, thoughts, and prayers.

To that end, NAGAP's Diversity and Inclusion Committee is actively arranging a webinar conversation about equity and justice in a higher education context. I've started a conversation on The Exchange where members can share resources to encourage conversations, offer support to students and colleagues, and actively address inequality on our campuses and in our communities. I want to encourage members to share their experiences, emotions, and expertise. As Dr. King said, "The time is always right to do what is right."

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Nelson", is positioned above the typed name.

Jeremiah Nelson  
NAGAP President