

Acknowledgement of Tragedies in the BIPOC Community

Nearly one year ago, the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees released a statement regarding the death of George Floyd. There, Allen Community College as well as community colleges across the state proclaimed their desire for change to ensure that “everyone is able to thrive.” Since then, we have witnessed ongoing violence, continued hate crimes, and an insurrection at our own nation’s capital. We wish to acknowledge the impact that such tragedies have had on our students, faculty, and staff as well as the cities of Iola, Burlingame, Osage County and the Allen County community.

Allen Community College’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee want to reaffirm that racism and violence is not and will never be tolerated. We acknowledge that the ongoing battle against systemic racism and white supremacy and understand that the fight for social justice is not over. We also acknowledge that acknowledgement in and of itself is not enough and merely the first step in being the inclusive and empowering institution that we have promised to be.

Allen Community College condemns all forms of racism, microaggression, homophobia, xenophobia, and both explicit and implicit bias. The horrors that we have watched, read and witnessed over the past year are unacceptable. Allen recognizes that while the tragedies may not have happened at our doorstep, pain and trauma has been felt by those on our own campuses and in our communities. We recognize the need for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) to grieve in whichever way they see fit and commit ourselves in creating space for all to do so, whether it be student, faculty, or staff.

Though we are a higher education institution and academic success is our purpose, we at Allen Community College recognize that first and foremost our community is made up of people with human emotions, fears and needs, including the need to feel safe and the freedom to show up as one’s most authentic self. We pledge to have the tough conversations about privilege and race. To continuously look at our actions, decisions and behaviors through a lens of diversity, equity and inclusion, and lastly we promise to do more and be more for those we live with, work with and serve.