

An Open Letter of Support to Our Colleagues at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

We, the Worcester State University-Multicultural Programming Committee, stand in solidarity with our colleagues at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HCBUs). We strongly condemn the recent domestic terror acts against students, staff, administrators, and faculty. These incidents; intended to inspire fear and anxiety in these learning communities; will not stop progress. HBCUs were founded to provide protection for Black scholars and students during a time of anti- Black Jim Crow racism enforced by ultra-violence. As Dr. Johnetta Betch Cole, former president of two HBCUs: Spelman and Bennett College describes, "The HBCU [was] an atmosphere where a student's humanity [was] never challenged."

The outward challenge continues.

Facing the pandemic together has shown us how inextricably connected our community needs to be at all levels. We must continue to engage in activating our agency to address systematic and structural changes that are needed not only to provide a climate for our BIPOC/ALANA students to pursue higher learning but also to have campuses continue the celebration of being BIPOC/ALANA.

We encourage our BIPOC/ALANA students to continue to commit to your wellness and restoration. We ask our community to continue to activate your agency to engage with critical eyes on the inclusion of Antiracism language and programming.

For Worcester State University students, please note the following resources are available to you

Counseling Center by calling 508-929-8702 or emailing counseling_wsu@worchester.edu or email counseling_wsu@worchester.edu

The Office of Multicultural Affairs (508) 929-8049 www.worchester.edu/oma

BIRT-Bias Incident Reporting Team: <https://www.worchester.edu/DIAAEO-Bias-Incidents-and-Reporting/>