Subject: SRU's commitment to our community
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 4:12:07 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Office of the President
To: SRU Stakeholder

April 20, 2021

To the University Community:

Across our Slippery Rock University community, we acknowledge – and share – the pain, grief, and outrage many continue to feel about George Floyd's death and Derek Chauvin's subsequent trial for his death.

As a community, we must do more to stand against racism, discrimination, and a system that makes advancement and everyday living so much more difficult for Black people in America. We must remember that many face daily injustices that cause a host of emotions including pain and trauma. Every day, we must recommit ourselves to fostering and living the values of equity and inclusion, while acknowledging the different perspectives, opinions, and beliefs of our fellow citizens, including their understandable outrage at discrimination. Through it all, we will continue to uphold our institutional values of respect, kindness, and purpose.

We encourage everyone in the Slippery Rock University family to remain open, listen, and support one another. We encourage you to take advantage of the extended on-campus and virtual counseling services available.

With that in mind, we want to share that our Student Counseling Center and Office for Inclusive Excellence are hosting an event titled "Beyond the Verdict: Managing Emotional Responses to Current Events," 6:30 p.m., April 21, via Zoom. The event will provide a safe and open space for all students to begin the healing process related to current events, including the pending verdict to the Derek Chauvin trial, that have been emotionally triggering and have reshaped people's conversations around race, bias, and social justice. The forum is open to all students and those interested in attending can learn more and register via CORE to receive a Zoom link.

For additional information about this event, or to speak to a counselor individually, contact the SCC at 724.738.2034. If you are in need of additional support or resources, you can connect to the Student Support Office by completing a CARE Referral or calling 724.738.2121.

As we await the verdict and then afterward, we acknowledge unequivocally that there is still substantial work to be done in our nation and on our campus. We are committed to working toward being an institution focused on diversity and equity for all and ask that each of you commit to making SRU a more inclusive and just place for every member of our community.

Thoughtfully,

William J. Behre
President

Abbey Zink
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

David Wilmes
Chief Student Affairs Officer

Terrence Mitchell
Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Inclusion