



June 8, 2020

The last week of events continues to highlight the systemic racism and injustices in our country. We are struggling to process our outrage, fear, and frustration with the senseless death of George Floyd, another unarmed black man killed by police in Minneapolis, just weeks after the horrific killings of Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery made national headlines, and the same day that Amy Cooper falsely accused Christian Cooper of attacking her in Central Park.

HECA unequivocally condemns these murders and racists actions and we stand in solidarity with those who are peacefully protesting, processing, and in shock from the events of this week. We also acknowledge the disproportionate impact the coronavirus pandemic is having on communities of color. To achieve the HECA mission of “equity and access to higher education for all students,” we must acknowledge the racist structures of our country and become aware of how we participate in them. Each one of us has an obligation to help create an equitable and just society.

We know that this issue is larger than us, but HECA is demonstrating solidarity with this movement by first looking within and examining how we can use our time, resources, and social power to actively fight against the injustices we see and to support those who are adversely affected by them.

In this moment, we are committing ourselves to doing better, beginning with the following immediate steps:

- Please join us in a shared educational experience. We invite you to engage with Dr. Robin DiAngelo, author of *White Fragility*, by reading her book, watching one of her YouTube videos, or both. <https://youtu.be/45ey4jgoxeU>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7mzj0cVL0Q>
- In July, we will have the opportunity to gather virtually and discuss Dr. DiAngelo’s work. Specific plans to follow.
- Please consider these films, and share your suggested resources at equity-access@hecaonline.org.

I Am Not Your Negro	The Hate You Give
Just Mercy	When They See Us
American Son	We Are The Giant
Dear White People	13th