

June 2, 2020

Dear Sea Grant Network,

It has been a painful week trying to process the death of George Floyd and the many whom have died before him by those that are sworn to protect all of our citizens. We share the sadness and frustration felt by the Black and African American communities. We recognize the pain of all of those who live their lives under the never-ending threat to their health and security because of injustice, harassment, and discrimination. A pandemic sweeps our country, but it disproportionately affects the poor, the ill, and the elderly, many of whom live in communities we have chosen to neglect and isolate. We support the right of our communities to peacefully demonstrate for change.

We should all be proud of our ongoing efforts to serve our communities while coping with COVID 19. Sea Grant must reaffirm our commitment to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion through collaboration with our diverse communities. Together we can lead positive change to end systemic racism and discrimination.

Resilience is many faceted. Let us all redouble our resilience efforts through the lens which inextricably links climate change and social justice. As a network, let us be the catalyst of the conversation among ourselves and beyond.

The SGA will continue to integrate education and awareness regarding social justice, equity, and inclusion into our meetings and our strategic planning, student opportunities, recruitment, and community engagement. We strongly encourage all Sea Grant directors to use this time to advance dialogue and action within each of their programs and work towards a more just society.

To everyone who is part of the Sea Grant network – be it an employee or a stakeholder - we urge you to take care of yourselves, your families, and your communities as we address a cascade of difficult challenges.

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