CALL TO ACTION IN SUPPORT OF OUR BLACK STUDENTS, STAFF, FACULTY, STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES

We are part of the California Community College Rising Scholars network, a network of community colleges serving incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students. Our colleges serve more than 10,000 students incarcerated in prisons and jails, and more than 50 of our colleges have support programs, student clubs, and networks for formerly incarcerated students. While the recent events in our nation, including the murder of George Floyd and subsequent public uprisings, may only now be striking outrage in some, many of our Black students, colleagues, friends, and families have been terrorized by systemic racism their entire lives. It is time that we explicitly commit to racial justice and articulate a plan for change.

As racially diverse professionals, some of us have directly experienced systemic racism, while others have benefitted from privilege that shields us from racism. Together, we affirm that racism is embedded in our nation, including in our criminal justice and educational systems. We affirm that racism is not new and that in order to achieve meaningful change we all must join the struggle. We honor the efforts of the advocates and organizers whose work has gotten us this far, and we mourn for those whose lives were violently stolen.

We know that the criminal justice system is rooted in and perpetuates racism, and our students have carried this burden for too long. We commit to fighting for anti-racist and liberation-based pedagogies and practices in our work with carceral impacted students. We call upon our fellow faculty, staff, and administrators in the Rising Scholars network to move beyond words and take action. This includes:

- Implementing racial diversity in hiring, including hiring faculty, staff, students and administrators with lived criminal justice experience
- Expanding outreach and support for Black incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students even as we enter a recession
- Pushing ourselves to provide the highest quality culturally responsive classroom experience and maximum student supports for our incarcerated students
- Being vocal in our support for formerly incarcerated students and elevating the needs of Black students on campus as we engage with the campus community
- Seeking out and responding to the voices of our Black incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students and hearing their feedback not as criticism but as opportunity for change
- Consistently and repeatedly taking advantage of opportunities for action

Now is the time. Destiny is urging us to unite, to listen to our Black colleagues and students, to prioritize their voices in our conversations, and to demonstrate to our white colleagues and students how they can leverage their privilege and power to dismantle the pervasive systems of racism for the sake of uplifting our diverse community, for the sake of Humanity itself. We are faculty members, staff and administrators from across the state and today we stand united as a network committed to supporting and uplifting our Black students and colleagues.

Will you join us?

Edwin Hodges
EOPS Program Coordinator
Allan Hancock College

Kalinda Jones
Faculty
Folsom Lake College
1. Abdishakur Omar, MA  
   Black Alliance Co-Chair, Counselor/Assistant Professor, Southwestern College
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   DREAM Resource Program Coordinator, Cabrillo College
3. Albert Alvano  
   Co-Coordinator, Project RISE, Adjunct Counselor, Santiago Canyon College
4. Alec Griffin  
   Cerro Coso Community College
5. Alma Orozco  
   Financial Aid Specialist, Imperial Valley College
6. Ana Gonzalez  
   Hartnell College
7. Anacany Torres  
   Counselor and Co-Coordinator, Project RISE, Santiago Canyon College
8. Angelica Perez  
   Program Manager, Inmate Scholars Program, Bakersfield College
9. Annahita Mahdavi, Ph.D  
   Justice Scholars Program Faculty Coordinator, Associate Professor, Long Beach City College
10. Anne-Marie Beck  
    Faculty Advisor, FITE Club, Adjunct Career Counselor, Instructor, Cypress College
11. Anthony Francoso, Ph.D  
    CORE Program Coordinator, Sociology and Ethnic Studies, Pasadena City College
12. Audrey Schell  
    Retired Faculty, Santa Rosa Junior College
13. Bernadette M Johnson  
    Counselor, Pelican Bay Scholars Program, College of the Redwoods
14. Bronwyn Moreno  
    Director of Student Affairs, Equity Programs, Hartnell College
15. Bryan R. Hirayama  
    Lead Faculty of the Inmate Scholars Program, Bakersfield College
16. Camilla Anderson  
    Inmate Scholars Program, Bakersfield College
17. Carla Grady  
    Faculty, Santa Rosa Junior College
18. Carlon Manuel  
    Reentry Pathway Program Coordinator, Los Angeles Trade Tech College
19. Cathy Burgett  
    Adjunct Chef/Instructor, Santa Rosa Junior College
20. Cathy Hart  
    Dean, Palmdale Center and Extended Learning, Antelope Valley College
21. Cecilia G. Rocha  
    Student Equity Manager, Rio Hondo College
22. Cheech Raygoza  
    President of B.I.G.E. Club, Outreach/Mentor for Beyond Barriers, Allan Hancock College
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23. Chelsea Esquibias  
   Regional Coordinator, Rising Scholars, California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office
24. Christian Beaver  
   Berkeley Underground Scholars Ambassador, Imperial Valley College
25. Connor Keese  
   Outreach Specialist, Mission College
26. Damany Fisher, PhD  
   Director of Corrections Education and Reentry Services, Solano Community College
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   Professor of Anthropology, Bakersfield College
28. Dr. Allison Tom-Miura  
   Dean, Adult and Continuing Education, West Los Angeles College
29. Dr. Jeremy Hart  
   Professor, Counseling, Mt. San Antonio College
30. Dr. Jill Zimmerman  
   Dean of Student Life and Services, Antelope Valley College
31. Dr. Matthew Green  
   Success Through Education Program for Students and CMC Prison, Cuesta College
32. Dr. Robert Pimental  
   Vice President of Educational Services and Institutional Effectiveness, Fresno City College
33. Dr. Stacy Thompson  
   Vice President, Academic Services, Chabot College
34. Dr. Ticey Hosley  
   Associate Professor, Cuyamaca College
35. Dr. Vanessa Ochoa  
   Associate Dean, Student Services, Education Justice Scholars Program, East Los Angeles College
36. Eduardo Pesqueira, LCSW  
   Restorative Justice Coordinator, Imperial Valley College
37. Elizabeth Darley
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40. Graciela Milke  
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41. Gregory Barraza, PhD  
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42. Heather Tipton Cash  
   Taft College
43. Jamal Cooks, Ph.D  
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44. Jasmine Ruys, Ed.D  
   Associate Vice President, Enrollment Services, College of the Canyons
45. Jasmine Williams  
   Los Rios Community College District

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47. Jeff DeFranco  
    Superintendent/President, Lake Tahoe Community College

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49. Jennifer Miles  
    Instructor, Pelican Bay Scholars Program, College of the Redwoods

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51. Jessica Dobson  
    Assistant Professor, English, Norco College

52. Jesús Miranda  
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54. Jill Yee  
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61. Kate Feign  
    Corrections to College Coordinator, Mendocino College

62. Katie Bliss  
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64. Kim Beaton  
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65. Kristen M. Frye  
    Dean of Student Services, Columbia College

66. Kristina Whalen  
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67. Krystal Watkins  
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68. Laura Electa Hayes  
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93. Nicole Griffin
Incarcerated Student Education Program Manager, Cerro Coso Community College

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95. Noel Gomez
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96. Nora Kenney-Whitley, Ph.D
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99. Oscar Duran
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100. Patrice Milkovich
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103. Phylicia Deam
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104. Rafael Valdivinos Jr.
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