

Statement on Floyd Verdict from Student Affairs Leadership Team

April 20, 2021

Division of Student Affairs Staff,

Today, the Derek Chauvin trial verdict was announced. Derek Chauvin was found guilty on all three counts (*second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter*) for the death of George Floyd. This verdict impacts member of our community in unique ways. The murder of George Floyd was indeed significant in our lives – and throughout the world—and propelled internal and community reflection on how systemic racism is ingrained in our country. The result of this trial is just the beginning and we can now move forward together toward positive and impactful change.

Staff within our division are fundamentally positioned to support students through traumatic events such as these. We commit ourselves to our work and, oftentimes, do not pause to care for ourselves. We encourage you to find the spaces safe for you to process this information. Take the time you need to be with friends and family, or alone to reflect. Should you need additional resources, we urge you to connect with the [Employee Assistance Program](#). You cannot and should not try to pour from an empty cup.

When energy increases surrounding events like these, we need to be prepared. Please keep us informed of any students who need individual or group outreach, and if there are concerns of violence or actions that are contradictory to our Principles of Community.

We are confident that together, we will find the resiliency, hope, and trust to make positive change toward equity and peace.

Toyia K. Younger, Ph.D.  
Senior Vice President for Student Affairs

Erin Baldwin, MHA, MPH, FACHE  
Associate Vice President for Student Health and Wellness  
Director, Thielen Student Health Center

Pete D. Englin, Ph.D.  
Associate Vice President for Campus Life  
Director, Department of Residence

Sharron M. Evans, JD  
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs  
Dean of Students