



Dear COM Community,

It is with great heartache that I speak to you to address the senseless death of Mr. George Floyd. As a former police officer, I am deeply saddened and troubled by the incident that we witnessed last week. It is simply inexcusable for Mr. Floyd or any person in our nation to have their life cut short because of the color of their skin.

This incident is particularly heartbreaking for our school community where we serve a very diverse student population. At College of the Mainland, we pride ourselves on providing students with a safe environment to express themselves and find their voice as they explore ways to make the world around them a better place.

That said, I understand the need to express outrage in the form of peaceful protests. Peaceful protests are a constitutional right given to every person who wishes to make their position abundantly clear, and over this past week, we have witnessed the power of such demonstrations throughout our nation. In this time of pain and frustration, I am inspired and encouraged to have seen millions of people, from every walk of life, joining together to stand against the social injustices and racial disparities facing our communities.

The events of these past days have reaffirmed our unwavering commitment to educating tomorrow's leaders in a welcoming environment where they can be heard. Our voices and actions should reflect and embody our mission of providing a safe space for all who learn, work at or visit our campus.

Now, more than ever, it is important that we come together in a place of understanding and healing. My heart is with you as we move forward in pursuit of positive and productive change focused on the important work that we must do to create a more peaceful world where equality, compassion and understanding prevail.

Sincerely,

Dr. Warren Nichols
President, College of the Mainland