



June 2, 2020

Hello Everyone,

I'd like to talk about the events of the past days and the ongoing protests rocking our communities and our nation. This, added to the past 10 weeks of isolation due to the COVID-19 quarantine has taxed us to the limits of our understanding.

The senseless death of George Floyd in the custody of police and the resulting anger over another senseless killing has created sadness and outrage across our nation spilling out into the streets of our communities. Dr. Martin Luther King said, "***Riots are the message of the unheard.***"

In this horrific moment we have but yet another opportunity to listen to and definitively address inequities and disproportionate enforcement in our Black and Brown communities that have once again come to the forefront in the shadow of COVID-19.

Although most of us cannot truly understand the pain and fear our students and their families feel, we need to be able to have human conversations with each other and with our students around the outrage, fear, and alienation we are feeling and what we can do to effect real change in this moment and into the future.

We must honestly address and stand firm against intolerance, bias, bigotry and racism in all its forms. We need to seek understanding by listening, processing and seeking solutions together. Through inclusive, ongoing, open dialogue we can inform our hearts and minds and finally begin to make meaningful change in our lives, our student's lives, and the life of our communities and nation.

I continue to be hopeful for our future and I know that as we work through this crisis, as we have many others, we will be stronger and even more determined to live our mission, vision and values. Integrity, Respect, Service and Learning. That is the SIATech way and each one of us is an integral part of a larger whole that makes up our schools, our organization, our communities and our nation.

I am confident that we will be stronger for having met this moment with the belief that *we can do better, we must do better... and we will do better*. With that in mind, we will be proposing to the SIATech Board of Directors at the June meeting that they issue a **Resolution that supports Social Justice for all**.

SIATech will be providing expanded resources and opportunities to engage in dialogue focused on making sense of our current situation, sharing honest feelings, and suggesting paths to move forward.

Tomorrow's extended Wednesday Webinar will focus on listening to your ideas, concerns and suggestions regarding school safety and what our schools will look like physically in the next academic year.

Beginning this Friday, trained teachers will be offering Diversity Training to all SIATech staff and this will be a top priority in our professional development scheduling moving forward.

Amy Lansing and members of the Diversity Training Team will be offering additional themes to the Friday sessions on dealing with trauma to include "Ally Training" strategies as well as with "Bystander strategies."

Look for additional resources for staff on the SIATech website as well.

This has been and will continue to be a traumatic time in our schools, our communities, and our nation. Take time to be kind to yourself and to each other. Listen to each other and continue to fight for justice and opportunity for all.

I continue to be hopeful for our future because of the passion, commitment, and caring of our entire SIATech family. YOU are the BEST!!

Thank you.



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