Letter of support for Africana Studies by UNM Faculty - May 5, 2020

We stand together as faculty at the University of New Mexico to oppose racism and racist actions directed at the Africana Studies program and its leadership. The Africana Studies program serves the entire university and the state of New Mexico. The faculty, staff and students in the program devote themselves to the study of the critical and formative contributions of African American and African descent people. Moreover, the program faculty build bridges and relationships of human understanding across diverse communities within the state and globally. As faculty familiar with the program, we hold Africana Studies in the highest regard and will not tolerate anti-blackness and all of its associated expressions of bigotry and racism.

We therefore do not just offer a casual condemnation to recent and past racist practices and expressions against African Americans at UNM. We strongly and passionately condemn the targeted attacks against Africana Studies. We resolutely stand with the program and its community in the face of recent despicable actions that necessitate a unified public statement Davof opposition. We also support the NAACP's call for an investigation of these recent incidences as hate crimes. African American faculty, staff and students have been the ongoing targets of racist individuals and their practices at UNM. Moreover, we also support dismantling any systemic and underlying forms of inequality at UNM and in the state that provide the context for racist individuals and their attacks.

Finally, we will remain vigilant against hateful and divisive language that endangers the lives, experiences and academic freedoms of our students, staff and faculty in Africana Studies. We value, respect and honor the integral and essential value that Africana Studies offers our university and the entire state of New Mexico.

Sincerely,
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