



Message to The Community Following the Shocking Events in Minnesota

June 3, 2020

During this time, many of our students in the Hospitality Association community are experiencing intense feelings of fear, pain, and anger. We would like to begin by sending our heartfelt condolences to the family members of George Floyd. His death at the hands of police officers, as well as other recent high-profile acts of violence targeting black individuals, including Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, all point to a larger, systemic problem. Racism and oppression of minority groups must not be tolerated.

Hospitality, as we are taught in the classroom, is the art of taking care of others. This art has no limits. We are here to serve everyone. This philosophy is a lifestyle. It does not stop when we leave the classroom. This lifestyle is one that involves speaking out against oppression. To everyone that has been affected by racism and oppression, though we may not understand what you are experiencing, please know we stand with you. We want to do everything we can to instigate a wave of change in our society.

Our mission as the Hospitality Association Executive Board is to cultivate hospitality business leaders by providing forums for academic growth, industry experience, leadership roles, and career-enhancing opportunities while encouraging social interaction and unity within The School of Hospitality Business. HA affirms the acceptance of all students, regardless of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, or religious beliefs. Our global hospitality community is strengthened by the presence of diversity in its many forms. We believe our programs should reflect that to create a better future, both for ourselves and our guests.

We are committed to changing the hospitality community and that change begins in our backyard. Now, more than ever is a time for open dialogue. If you, as a student, faculty, or staff member of our program, feel that there is something that we, the Hospitality Association Executive Board, can do to improve your experience at The School, please reach out to us at spartanha@gmail.com.

We encourage you to show your support. This support can be given by educating yourself, listening to those who are oppressed, signing petitions, and donating, if you can. This is a time for unity. If we stand united, we will be able to live out the vision of those who fought for equality and freedom in this country and around the world.

In Solidarity,

Hospitality Association Executive Board

Below are some helpful resources to take action:

Get Involved in Your Community

- If you are interested in further championing diversity in hospitality, then we encourage you to become a member of the MSU chapter of the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality
- Sign the MSU Community Pledge.
https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3PCR1KiljfZz4Gh
- Register to Vote
- Contact your Congressional Representatives

Text These Numbers

- Text FLOYD to 55-156
- Text JUSTICE to 66-8336
- Text ENOUGH to 55-165

Sign These Petitions

- Justice For George Floyd
<https://www.change.org/p/mayor-jacob-frey-justice-for-george-floyd>
- Color of Change
https://act.colorofchange.org/sign/justiceforfloyd_george_floyd_minneapolis/

Make a Donation

- George Floyd Memorial Fund
- Black Lives Matter Fund
- Reclaim the Block

Where can I go to get more information?

- This website will direct you to many of the resources available from petitions to sign and places to donate
<https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/>

There are countless other resources. Other actions involve reading books, listening to podcasts, having difficult conversations with friends and family and speaking out when you witness injustice in your own community.