

George Floyd. Mike Brown. Breonna Taylor. Eric Garner. Tony McDade. Sandra Bland. Ahmaud Arbery. These are some of the victims of institutional racism and police brutality across the United States today. We give honor to their memories and our heartfelt condolences to all who have been unjustly taken from our communities. We write to you today to unequivocally state: **Black Lives Matter.**

Among the purposes of the MCLA Alumni Association are the following: *“To promote the interests of MCLA and its alumni; to provide services and programs to enlighten, strengthen, and develop the student, faculty, staff, and alumni body of MCLA; and to promote educational, professional, social, cultural, and economic development of MCLA.”*

Based on these principles and in response to the repeated injustices committed against the Black community, the Alumni Board of Directors could not in good conscience remain silent. Therefore, the MCLA Alumni Association Board of Directors affirms solidarity with the protests across the country in the fight against police brutality and racial injustice. Until we unequivocally state and firmly stand up for the principle that every Black life matters, these injustices will continue.

The Alumni Board of Directors further believes that actions are more powerful than words. Therefore, at our meeting on June 20th, we will begin the process of active self-education as a means to inform further action to fight the injustices faced daily by the Black community. Additionally, the Alumni Board of Directors is committing itself today to creating a space within the next year for Black alumni to engage with their institution, their Alumni Board of Directors, and future Black alumni. We look forward to conversations with all of you on both of these initiatives.

For now, we ask that you get involved in whatever way is best for you at this moment and we send our sincere thanks to those who already have. You can find a comprehensive list of ways to help [here](#)—we encourage you to review and share it widely. In addition, we ask our White alumni to actively, not passively, support this movement. It can only succeed if those who have received institutional and societal privileges are actively engaged. Together we can acknowledge and actively work against the structural inequalities that are ingrained in the fabric of our society.

We stand with our Black alumni community. We stand with you. **Black Lives Matter.**

- MCLA Alumni Association Board of Directors