



The Washington Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

6-5-20

WACTE: 28 Educational Preparation Programs for Teacher Education at 50+ locations throughout Washington State:

**Antioch University
Central Washington University
Centralia College
City University of Seattle
Eastern Washington University
Gonzaga University
Grays Harbor College
Heritage University
Highline College
Lower Columbia College
NW Educ. Development
Northwest University
Pacific Lutheran University
Pierce College
Seattle Pacific University
Seattle University
Saint Martin's University
The Evergreen State College
University of Puget Sound
University of WA Bothell
University of WA Seattle
University of WA Tacoma
Walla Walla University
Washington State University
Whitworth University
Western Governor's University
Western WA University
Yakima Valley College**

The Washington Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (WACTE), the body of teacher certification programs that prepares teachers for Washington's K-12 schools, condemns the latest in a long series of police killings of African Americans – the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis at the hands of police officers - and trusts that its ongoing efforts to diversify the teaching workforce and specifically, to prepare teachers with anti-racist tools, can contribute to the healing and changes necessary as we as a nation move forward.

Teacher and minister Theodore Parker, later paraphrased by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, “the arc (of the moral universe) is a long one...And from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice.”

That is the goal of WACTE's programs as well. We pledge to do our part to make this happen. We must understand more deeply the realities of black people's lives and their interactions with law-enforcement officers and do what we can to change those realities, especially in our schools. Protests across the state of Washington this week have been, for the most part, peaceful. While there have been violent incidents, these incidents should not detract from the central message of the protestors that we must address systemic racism that causes unnecessary pain, suffering, and deaths in the black community. The economic loss from a small number of people who attach themselves to legitimate protests can be painful, but it is far from the pain caused by the loss of life and liberty that disproportionately falls on our black brothers and sisters.

No parents should have to have “the talk” with their sons or daughters about how to behave when stopped by law-enforcement. No mothers should have to fear that their black children will not come home because they have been killed by police for some trivial reason. No spouses should have to fear that their partners will die while jogging for exercise. No people should have to fear being shot and killed in their own homes simply because they are black.

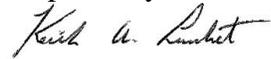
The outrage over, specifically, the death of George Floyd must not dissipate without change.

WACTE preparation programs pledge to redouble their efforts to create a more inclusive teaching corps, address systemic racism within their own programs and the broader education system, examine their own implicit biases, and do their best to prepare teachers who can and will teach children

the ways that they, and we, can create a society where we don't have to mourn the deaths of people such as George Floyd or Philando Castile or Botham Jean or Breonna Taylor or Eric Garner or Michael Brown or hundreds of other black people who have died because of the ways police and our governments view and treat black people

In short, we must strive as a collective voice for a more just society and trust that our continued and increasing focus on these issues can equip schools to do their part to create the changes necessary for a more equitable and just society. We can and must do better!

Respectfully,



Keith A Lambert, Ed.D.
WACTE President