



TOURO UNIVERSITY
CALIFORNIA

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH SCIENCES

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM



June 10, 2020

The Public Health Program stands in solidarity with demonstrations across the country and globe protesting police brutality & systemic racism and oppression.

We recognize that the national unrest has unfolded at the intersection of the COVID-19 pandemic, putting African Americans and other people of color at an even greater risk for deepening existing health and social inequities.

Prior to the civil unrest, the nation, with public health at the helm, shifted national, state, and local priorities to focus on the Coronavirus pandemic. As African Americans and other people of color were found to be disproportionately impacted, this laser focus to COVID-19 brought attention to the racial inequities that have historically plagued our country. National conversations about root causes were emerging and public dialogues were beginning to take place about underlying conditions, overrepresentation as essential workers, crowded housing environments, and other social determinants responsible for the disproportionate risks. However, missing from these conversations were the root causes to explain African Americans' higher likelihood for underlying conditions. What the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis Police and the civil unrest that followed accomplished was the recognition of the direct impacts of oppression and systemic racism as the root cause for these massive social and health inequities locally and globally.

As a public health program rooted in social justice, we seek to continue to train our students to understand and address racism and police violence as social determinants of health. We are energized that we can use our platform to train healthcare providers and public health professionals to become powerful leaders who can truly serve as conduits for social change.

We are committed to continuous self-reflection and will examine the role of our university as an institute of higher education within the larger systems of racism and oppression.

This statement serves as a placeholder and will evolve overtime as we actively engage our partners and community stakeholders to develop and assess our priorities and action plans moving forward.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM

1310 CLUB DRIVE : VALLEJO CALIFORNIA 94592
T 707-638-5807 : F 707-638-5927 : w tu.edu