

July 8, 2020

Dear Physics Faculty,

We are writing to you in response to the “Juneteenth Letter to Physics Department Leadership” recently sent by graduate students. Since 1) the students addressed the letter to both faculty and staff, and 2) many staff members have a strong interest in racial justice issues and can contribute to needed change in our community, we wish to proactively partner with you to address students’ demands thoughtfully and collaboratively. We hereby affirm our support for Black Lives Matter and the pressing need for our department to take action on social justice issues.

Upon closely reviewing the letter, we believe that Physics staff could directly impact several of the noted areas, but it would also be worthwhile for faculty and staff to meet together to share tasks and to clarify and differentiate the responsibilities of faculty and staff. To that end, we the undersigned staff members, have taken initial steps to form a staff-centric Equity and Inclusion Committee whose goal is to discuss and drive these changes. We will continue to look for ways in which we can make the Physics Department a more diverse and welcoming space. We look forward to working together in specific, actionable ways to better our community.

Respectfully,

Members of the Physics Department Staff

Joelle Miles (Graduate Student Advisor)
Kathleen Cooney (Undergraduate Student Advisor)
Donna Sakima (Graduate Student Advisor)
Heather Makiharju (BPIE Program Advisor)
Brett Laugtug (Academic Personnel Analyst)
Simon Leaver-Appelman (Financial Analyst)
Elizabeth Nakahama (Front Office Manager)
Marissa Gardner-Saraf (Finance and Business Services Manager)
Claudia Trujillo (Director of Student Services)
Marissa Dominguez (Academic Personnel Analyst)
Eleanor Crump (Facilities and Operations, Emerita)
Jon Deasy (Administrative Assistant)
Lisa Partida (Administrative Assistant)
Roberto Barrueto (Instructional Support)
Amin Jazaeri (Director of Instructional Support)
Nicole Pagano (Chief of Staff)
Sarah Wittmer (Visual Communications Specialist)
Winthrop Williams (Advanced Lab)