

Statement from the Washington State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

We are saddened and horrified by the events of the past several weeks, particularly the senseless killing of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and Rayshard Brooks. We know these are only a few examples of many instances of brutality and hatred perpetuated by systemic racism still very much alive in our nation. We feel compelled to call out this hatred by name and share the message as it needs be shared: **Black Lives Matter**. We stand with all Washington State Academy members, the Black community, and communities of color in Washington State and around the country, during what we hope will be a time of awakening, awareness, and change. We want to do our part to amplify this message and continue to learn more about supporting this important movement.

The Washington State Academy's vision is to "optimize the health and well-being of Washington State individuals through food and nutrition." In this context, this means we need to continue to advocate for equal access to healthy food and preventative nutrition care for all communities that have historically had diminished access to quality food and healthcare. This also means we need to be committed to the future generations of our profession, ensuring we have inclusive and proactive recruitment practices to create a more diverse workforce.

In addition to our commitment to furthering our advocacy efforts and increasing diversity, we are also:

Listening: We invite you to engage in this conversation with us. We have added an area on our [Washington State Academy homepage](#) entitled, "We're all in this Together," and we encourage you to share your thoughts/comments/ideas about how we can make the Washington State Academy a diverse place for all students, Registered Dietitian Nutritionists and Nutrition and Dietetic Technicians, Registered.

Learning: We are committed to increasing our understanding of diversity and the impact of systemic racism on healthcare disparities. We are currently reviewing resources and opportunities for Board training, webinars for members, a resource guide, and educational sessions to provide at our annual conference. Please submit your suggestions [here](#).

Participating: We are connected to the national Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and are committed to collaborating and contributing to the [conversation](#) initiated by CEO, Patricia Babjak, and President, Linda Farr. We will share recommendations and suggestions received from our members that can impact future action.

We know our profession can do better to support the Black community, as well as indigenous peoples and communities of color. We promise to examine our individual and collective roles in perpetuating systemic racism, and to put diversity at the forefront of our association's advocacy and educational efforts.

We've also started a [diversity resource page](#) on our website. We welcome your suggestions for additions to the page.

We are all in this together,

The Washington State Academy 2020 – 2021 Board