



September 17, 2020

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff of South Seattle College,

The South Seattle College Foundation would like to express its grief and outrage at the senseless murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May as well as the more recent shooting that paralyzed Jacob Blake in Kenosha. The Foundation is a close member of the South Seattle College family and expresses its support for the words spoken by South Seattle College President Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap in her message to each of you shortly after the George Floyd murder.

Unfortunately, the murder of George Floyd and the shooting of Jacob Blake, are just the most recent tragic examples of the inhumane and violent treatment that the Black community across this nation faces on a daily basis. The subsequent national protests and outrage that have been on-going since late May are hopefully a turning point for our country so that a deeper more meaningful conversation can be undertaken to understand and eventually dismantle the underlying structure of systemic racism.

The Foundation believes that education is a powerful tool to help understand and begin the discussion to help dismantle the systems of oppression and racism that exist. We cannot act if we do not see, or do not understand, how these systems hurt our communities of color. As a society we must act and education is one of the places to begin.

The Foundation will continue to act by supporting the students, faculty and staff of South Seattle College through its mission of changing lives by providing scholarships or various forms of grants to help those in need achieve their educational goals. Many of the scholarships each year are awarded to students who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color, as well as students who may be undocumented.

The tragic events of the past four months have once again awakened the racial injustices that exist in our country. As we all seek to understand, educate ourselves, and act to solve these injustices, it is important to remember that the Foundation's support of the students, faculty and staff of South Seattle College is unwavering in these difficult times.

Sincerely,

The South Seattle College Foundation Board,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Walter Reese'.

Walter Reese, Board Chair, Hamilton Gardner, Vice Chair, Elizabeth Hedlund, Treasurer, Liz Flores-Marcus, Secretary, Marjorie Alhadeff, Catherine Arnold, Jill Cooke, Eileen Day, Judy Gray, Ed Parks, Tanya Strozier, Erika Sweet, Michael Teramoto

**SOUTH SEATTLE COLLEGE FOUNDATION**

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