

June 1, 2020

Hello

I wanted to take a moment to reach out in support of our University Housing residents, student staff and full-time staff of color. I struggle to find the right words that can adequately express anything of comfort. I am spinning my wheels here and wanting to align with the Chancellor's message, but also feeling unqualified – not wanting my privilege to let my words come off as a well-intentioned white person who just doesn't get it. What I do get quite clearly is that many of our staff and students of color are personally struggling right now, and as we know unfortunately too well, it is not just right now.....it has been for a long time.

Words are not enough, and it is important that I and all of us in University Housing commit to doing better and showing this in actions, not just in words sent in an email. It is critical that our staff and students of color are seen and heard. You have a place on campus and in University Housing, and it is my responsibility to make sure that we are making sure you are valued and can find a safe space in our Housing community and family.

We will continue to create opportunities to educate, challenge one another to think about behavior, and act swiftly to hold those accountable when their behavior is unacceptable, disrespectful or violates policies of our University. It is on all of us to not take the easy path and say to those who are struggling, just reach out for assistance. To our University Housing residents, student staff and full-time staff of color, we hear you, we appreciate you and we stand together in unity with you.

Jeff

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