



Dear NEIU Biology students,

We hope you are all doing well and are staying healthy during these challenging times. We want to let you know that we are completely behind and strongly support the ongoing Black Lives Matter movement and the honorable protests that have developed.

The events that unfolded with the murder of George Floyd on May 25th at the hands of the police, as well as the innumerable accounts of police brutality across the nation, has once again brought to light the fundamental and systemic INJUSTICES of America's key institutions and way of life, and we stand committed to change. As biologists, we know that race is a social, and not biological, construct that has created, reinforced and perpetuated inequities that exist far beyond what many acknowledge.

You have likely noticed that few of the Biology Department's faculty and staff are Black. This fact can be explained by deep-rooted systemic racism which has historically benefited white privilege and will continue to do so if left unchecked. We recognize that our students learn better when they can see themselves in their mentors and we are committed to do better. We pledge to work harder at increasing diversity in our faculty and staff bodies and to use our privilege to speak up for our Black students and colleagues who do not yet have the same advantages.

Lastly, we want to lift your voice up. You belong in STEM, and especially in our Biology Department. We need to start having these conversations. **Please join us for Virtual Gatherings for Biology Students and our broader NEIU STEM community** to discuss how we can develop unity and community among each other as we build our path forward together.

Thursday, June 11, 11 a.m.-noon and Wednesday, June 17, 6-7 p.m.

Join us via Google Meet for either day at meet.google.com/yxq-qboz-pnb (phone 225-414-2864, PIN: 234 017 669#).

Below you'll find a list of STEM-specific resources for support and solidarity:

NEIU's Pedroso Center: <https://www.facebook.com/PedrosoCenter/?ref=hl>

If you're on social media, we recommend you follow @BlackandSTEM, @OutdoorAfro, @BlackAFInSTEM, @SACNAS, and hashtags like #BlackInNature and #BlackSTEM

Diversity Outreach Directory (STEM)

https://www.aibs.org/diversity/diversity_outreach_directory.html

The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

<https://www.asbmb.org/diversity/resources>

American Association of Blacks in Energy <https://www.aabe.org/>

National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers <https://www.nobcche.org/>

National Society of Black Engineers <https://www.nsbe.org/home.aspx>

National Society of Black Physicists <https://www.nsbp.org/>

National Black Nurses Association <https://www.nbna.org/>

National Medical Association <https://www.nmanet.org/default.aspx>

Student National Medical Association <http://www.snma.org/>

Black Data Processing Associates <https://www.bdpa.org/default.aspx>

Blacks in Technology <https://www.blacksintechology.net/>