

Dear Connell School students, faculty, staff, and community,

The Connell School of Nursing (CSON) opposes racism, discrimination, and systemic oppression in all its forms, and we stand with our students and colleagues from underrepresented populations who have been adversely impacted by systemic oppression. We remain dedicated to fostering an inclusive environment for members of our community, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, socioeconomic status, or ability. Many of our nurses and educators have seen firsthand how discrimination has disproportionately impacted the health care of our most vulnerable populations, particularly people of color. That's why, in this unprecedented historical time, we reaffirm our commitment to confronting and dismantling systemic racism and oppression.

Our community has taken steps to cultivate a more inclusive educational setting through our teaching, research, and practice. We hope you will take the time to read about these initiatives on the [Diversity & Inclusion](#) section of our website. While many of these programs and initiatives are extensions of existing efforts, others are just starting to take shape with the support and guidance of our students, faculty, and staff. In the spirit of progress, we encourage all members of our community to engage and collaborate with these efforts to create a more socially just and equitable school. And although we are proud of the work we have accomplished, we recognize that this work is ongoing and understand that there is still much to be done before our goal is realized.

The Connell School of Nursing remains committed to reaffirming our strategic aim of building and maintaining an inclusive educational environment by:

- Continuing to build upon the success of our anti-racism dialogue sessions with our faculty and staff working collaboratively with the Forum on Racial Justice
- Continuing to provide education to our faculty and staff through hands-on workshops and trainings specific to diversity and inclusion topics
- Delivering information to our faculty, staff, and students regarding these ongoing initiatives and forthcoming plans in our community-wide Diversity Advisory Board meetings (held every semester)

I think each and every one of you for your engagement, collaboration, and contributions to the Connell School of Nursing.

Yours,

Susan Gennaro

Dean, Connell School of Nursing