

Statement from the President and CEO - Black Lives Matter

From: John Maykoski <john.maykoski@graduateschool.edu>

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To: Group-All Employees **Subject:** Statement from the President and CEO - Black Lives Matter

Dear Graduate School Employees and Faculty:

Pain, hurt, and suffering are being felt across the United States and around the world, resulting from George Floyd's murder and the senseless killing and mistreatment of many other African Americans. I know, too, that every person on our team here at Graduate School USA shares this pain and carries a heavy heart.

I grew up in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and hold my hometown dear, with many family and friends who continue to live there. That Mr. Floyd was unnecessarily and brutally killed is outrageous and so very sad for me. The fact that his death is another in a succession of killings at the hands of the police there, and in other places in our Nation, is more troubling to me than I am able easily to express with words.

These acts are horrendous and reflect the unfortunate roots of discrimination and racism that still exists in our country, with our Black and Brown communities enduring the brunt of the inequities in our system of justice.

Graduate School USA has a long history of inclusion, and for helping people of all backgrounds to develop themselves professionally and through personal enrichment so that they can be more productive public servants and citizens. Our organizational values reflect the importance of service, diversity, learning, ethics and excellence. As an educational provider, we have now an opportunity to refine our mission and values, and to prioritize human-centered practices and humanity in our programs.

At no time are these values more important than today; and I know each of us is fully committed to embodying these values in our lives and work. Together and as individuals, we can be agents for human rights and positive change within the communities we serve, ensure that we are inclusive in our practices, be transparent and help each other, and hold ourselves accountable all the while doing our part to eliminate racism, discrimination, and injustice. And, as the leader of this organization, I would like to make it abundantly clear that I stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and our entire Graduate School USA family.

I also would like to take this opportunity to remind you of Graduate School USA's Employee Assistance Program. The Employee Assistance Program provides confidential access to a Licensed Professional Counselor to help with personal, family, and work issues. If needed, they can refer us to qualified professionals for more long-term support, and in a crisis, are available to help on a 24/7 basis. If you are in need of assistance in coping with these difficult times, you may call our Health Advocate at 866.799.2728 or by email at answers@HealthAdvocate.com.

Thank you and be well.

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