School of Civil and Construction Engineering
Subject: A Message for the CCE Community

Dear Members of the CCE Community,

The murder of George Floyd by a white police officer has gripped the nation. The ensuing global outcry is a call for racial justice. Today, mourners at Mr. Floyd’s funeral remind us of the daily vulnerabilities experienced by Black people across the United States.

I write to offer a voice of support to the people of color in our community. Many of you may be aware of the #ShutDownSTEM #ShutDownAcademia movement aimed to transition to a lifelong commitment of actions to eradicate anti-Black racism in academia and STEM. Tomorrow, June 10th 2020, has been designated as a day of reflection on these critical issues. I will be meeting (virtually) with other Civil Engineering department heads to discuss how we can help address racism in academia and STEM.

CCE will review the results of a recently completed climate survey (led by Erica Fischer). A committee will be established to use these results as well as thoughtful input from students, staff, and faculty to develop steps to take to move forward. This is an opportunity for us as educators to step up and show our willingness toward improvement in this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Jason Weiss
Head of the School of Civil and Construction Engineering