College of Engineering
A Message from Dean Ashford

Dear College of Engineering Community,

I will start by saying I don’t quite know what to say, coming from a combination of shock, frustration, shame, and ignorance. The endless police killings of Black Americans compels us to take action, both individually and collectively, to address systemic racism and injustice in our own communities and institutions.

Black lives matter.

In support of #ShutDownAcademia and #ShutDownSTEM on June 10, I have rescheduled all of my college meetings to other days, and plan to participate in the OSU Student Town Hall: Reflection on Racial Injustice from noon to 1 p.m. This was a small action, easy to undertake. The more important actions are those we take next week, next year, and for years to come.

To start, I commit to bringing a Black scholar to Oregon State for the next College of Engineering Dean’s Distinguished Lecture. I commit to providing leadership training for the college’s leadership team by a Black expert. I commit to incorporating discourse about dismantling systemic racism into the college’s first-year engineering experience.

One of our goals as a college is to become a place where everyone — students, staff, and faculty — has a sense of belonging. We are not there yet. We still have work to do. But as dean of the College of Engineering, I commit to educating myself and the COE community, dedicating time and resources, and taking meaningful actions to advance racial and social justice.

I urge you sincerely to consider doing the same.

Scott A. Ashford, PhD, PE (CA)
Kearney Dean of Engineering
College of Engineering
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97330