Message from Jennifer Alix-Garcia  
Department of Applied Economics

Dear AEC Community,

I am sending out this message on the eve of June 10 in the spirit of the call by #ShutDownAcademia to have this day mark a transition in our commitment to fighting racism in academia. We have cancelled our usual Wednesday working group seminar in recognition of the fact that tomorrow is not a day for business as usual. It is a moment to reflect, prioritize, and to begin to elaborate a plan of action.

Recent data on degrees awarded in economics show that just 3.1% of PhDs, 6.3% of MAs, and 5% of bachelors’ degrees are awarded to Black students. In AEC, the percentages are lower than this. If we do not address these numbers, we are part of the problem.

The first act is recognizing the pervasive existence of anti-Black racism. Writer Alyssa Klein and activist and filmmaker Sarah Sophie Flicker have compiled a public google doc with over 75 anti-racism resources for white people and parents to deepen their anti-racism work. These are available here: bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES.

The next act is to create a plan. I promise to develop such a plan with your input and the input of Black colleagues across campus. By the time the fall term begins, we will have reviewed all departmental policies related to scholarship, outreach, and education. We will delineate concrete changes to these policies in order to fight embedded racism and create a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable department.

For too long, Black people have had to go it alone in AEC and in the field of economics. That day is over.

Sincerely,
Jen

Jennifer Alix-Garcia (she/her)  
Professor and Department Head  
Applied Economics  
Oregon State University  
Ballard Extension Hall  
541-737-2691  
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