

To the Raritan Valley Community College Student Body,

As the Dean of Student Affairs, I write to you regarding the social unrest that has gripped our country for the last few weeks. The brutal death of George Floyd has sparked protests worldwide and has, once again, shown the chronic injustice and violence directed at the Black community in this country. Our nation's insidious history with racism—from slavery, to Jim Crow laws, to redlining—still impacts us today and continues to create innumerable hurdles for Black people in the realization of political, economic, and educational opportunities.

As an educational institution, we have a responsibility to speak out and use our power to educate and inform. RVCC provides us with a community where we can safely share our voices and vision for the future, a student body whose diversity is celebrated, and a space where we can come together for support and healing.

To that end, as Raritan Valley Community College continues to develop and improve the ways it can support its students in the fight for racial equality, the Division of Student Affairs has established three immediate resources available to students:

- 1) If you feel you have experienced racial bias within the RVCC community, you can report those issues of harassment and discrimination to our office. The college is aware that when issues of race are at the forefront of media coverage, racist and discriminatory conduct may become more prevalent. Email our office at DOSS@raritanval.edu.
- 2) If you are feeling stressed or overwhelmed and want to talk with someone, RVCC's counseling staff is available. Email personalcounseling@raritanval.edu to connect with a counselor.
- 3) If you want a space to talk, listen and learn, we will be sponsoring a virtual townhall. We will also be conducting additional workshops and programs designed to address issues of race, civic engagement, and support of students.

These actions are only the start of the support we plan to offer students. The Office of the Dean of Student Affairs, the Office of Advising and Counseling, and the entire Student Affairs team are available to assist. It is essential that we continue to have conversations about race, even in a virtual environment.

An integral part of Raritan Valley Community College's education is to inspire you to challenge bigotry and hatred by collaborating with all members of our community to act against racism, and to be accountable for the changes we want to see in our classrooms, in our homes, and in our communities where we work and live. I ask that you participate, engage, and let your voices be heard as we address issues of race and injustice together. If you know of topics that you want to be addressed or even speakers who have expertise to add to this conversation, please let us know. We will be sending out additional information about upcoming activities and I welcome your thoughts moving forward.

Thank you and stay safe,

Jason Fredericks
Dean of Student Affairs