

Office of
DIVERSITY

The LSU SVM Diversity Office and the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine are mourning the lives that have been, and continue to be, lost due to unjust killings. George Floyd is only the most recent event. We also mourn Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery whose lives were taken in March and February, respectively. Finally, we mourn the many other individuals whose lives were taken but never made it to the public eye. The protests witnessed throughout the country are a cry for justice. We stand together.

For members of the SVM community, we acknowledge your pain. We acknowledge your fear. We acknowledge you. We stand together.

We cannot change the past. Thus, we must be vigilant in the present and work in the future to address the needs of our community. We need spaces to be heard along with support, education, and justice. Our community needs change, and the SVM Diversity Office serves to be part of that change. We stand together.

With National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) principles serving as the foundation, the SVM Diversity Office is working to enhance our diversity and inclusion efforts. We grow through hearing others' experiences, so we strive to create spaces where individuals can share their stories. Only then can we begin to support each other and effect change within the community. Accordingly, we developed the National Association for Black Veterinarians student group, which aims to develop visibility and allyship within the SVM, LSU, and the surrounding Baton Rouge community. The group works to not only educate the community about the negative experiences of people of color, but also celebrate the contributions and successes. We stand together.

If you find yourself overwhelmed or stunned by the recent events, we encourage you to seek out help. The SVM Diversity Office, in conjunction with the SVM Wellbeing Committee, offers a support system with an abundance of resources. The weight of the recent events are too heavy to bear alone, so PLEASE reach out to someone. Make self-care a priority. We stand together.

As we move forward, the SVM Diversity Office would like to remind you once again that the SVM is a community. When one of us hurts, we all hurt. We stand together, and we stand for one another.

SVM Diversity Office