



## **Wellness Center Statement of Solidarity with Black Students, Faculty and Staff**

The Wellness Center stands in solidarity with our Black students, faculty and staff and all who are outraged and in pain in the aftermath of the horrific shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, WI. Just days later, members of the same police force drove right by a young white vigilante murderer. This senseless act of state violence against Jacob Blake joins the murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and a painfully chronic, long line of other racially motivated injustices. We feel the pain, anger and despair caused by these predictable recurrences from a social, political and economic system that remains mired in entrenched systems of oppression. There can be no peace without justice. Lives are at stake and Black lives matter.

Even from a distance, during these troubled times of a pandemic, our staff remains available to you. We are available for crisis and trauma response, for outreach training and consultation, for individual and group counseling, and for after-hours consultation. We recognize the trauma in experiencing or witnessing the arrest of peers, friends or students. We know that advocating for justice and for your beliefs can take a significant emotional and psychological toll. Caring for yourself is not a self-indulgence nor a defeat. Rather, it may allow you to keep going, to keep advocating for change, to keep on being a person for others. *Please* reach out if you need support, and also encourage your fellow-advocates to connect with us if support is needed.

In response to conversations with the leaders of the Black Cultural Center and because of our commitment to becoming better allies, we have taken the following actions:

- We have expanded our group offerings, with particular attention paid to creating affinity spaces for students. To find out more about our groups, click [here](#) or to schedule an appointment with a Wellness Center counselor, click [here](#).
- We have enhanced our resources for Black student mental health, which you can find [here](#).
- In January, the Wellness Center created a new position, Counselor for Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice Initiatives. To schedule an appointment to speak with this Black-identified psychologist, Dr Andrea Boyd, click [here](#).

The Wellness Center remains engaged in continued dialogue to make progress on these and other anti-racist initiatives.

### **Additional LUC Resources:**

[Student Diversity and Multicultural Affairs](#)

[Center for Student Assistance and Advocacy](#)