

UNLV | STUDENT COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

Dear UNLV Students, Faculty, and Staff

In light of the current events that are affecting our country today, we want to let you know that the University of Las Vegas, Nevada Student Counseling and Psychological Services (UNLV CAPS) supports inclusion, diversity, and equitable treatment. To our Black Students and community, we recognize your frustration, anger, sadness, grief, and trauma. We support Black lives in the face of all forms of hostility, aggression, and terror. We honor the Black lives lost to police violence and other anti-Black violence, while advancing a vision of a more inclusive community and a more just world.

UNLV CAPS supports student and faculty organizations that oppose systemic racism and oppression. We understand the need for students, faculty and staff to express their concerns and to be heard regarding the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tashii Brown, Byron Williams, and many others, and we support calls for action, change, and justice.

We recognize that current events can be overwhelming and distressing. UNLV CAPS is committed to creating a safe and comfortable space for students of all cultures and identities. We proudly operate from a multi-theoretical and multicultural approach to meet the unique mental health needs of individual students. We are putting this approach into practice in the following ways while observing university and state guidelines in response to COVID-19:

- We offer mental health consultation services to UNLV students on a call-in basis any time that we are open (currently, Monday through Thursday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm) for any immediate needs, including the need to speak to us about the impact of racism or oppression, whether it be personal, vicarious, or institutional. Some students meet with CAPS staff members only once and some meet more than once after considering students' needs and preferences.
- We have several counselors who identify as people of color, as well as others who strive to do the work of allies to people of color, and we will listen to you about your preferences for who you meet with and accommodate them as much as possible.
- We will continue to maintain liaison relationships with other UNLV departments, such as Student Diversity and Social Justice (SDSJ) and the Jean Nidetch Women's Center, to collaborate in supporting UNLV's diverse community and better understand and serve the multiple identities they may have.
- In collaboration with SDSJ, we conduct a Tuesday Talk workshop via videoconference every Tuesday from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm for students, faculty and staff of color. We are working on either temporarily designating this as a space specifically for Black students, or potentially creating a

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separate such workshop and space for Black students. Please contact CAPS at 702-895-3627 for further information about this workshop.

- We are creating a Diversity Committee within CAPS to further prepare and educate ourselves to respond to the needs of students of color at UNLV. We will help facilitate ongoing conversations with faculty/staff around the impact of racism on mental health and wellness and we will work to remain current in our own understanding regarding issues around diversity and multiculturalism.

Please know that we see you, we hear you, and we are ready to help you heal and thrive. Together, we can be part of the solution.

Sincerely,

UNLV CAPS Staff