

Mentors,

In the wake of the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and countless others we as Empower Mentoring have a responsibility to our students and the Black community to speak up. The injustices unfolding before our eyes are not new, they have occurred for hundreds of years. Now is the time for change. We stand in solidarity with the Black community fighting against injustice across our nation and encourage you to use your voice to amplify Black voices. In addition, our Executive Board will continually be meeting to discuss how our organization can take on an even larger role in ending the injustices inflicted upon the Black community. Our goal is to create and implement transformative changes to better our community of Columbus. We welcome any ideas you may have in aiding us through this process.

Everyone is processing the current situation in their own unique way. If you need to talk to someone, do not hesitate to reach out to any of the Executive Board members. Here are some additional resources we encourage you to check out:

[Buckeye Peer Access Line](#) (614)-514-3333

[Counseling and Consultation Services](#) (614)-292-5766

The [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#) has some specific resources tailored to what is happening right now.

[Black Lives Matter Drop-In Processing Sessions](#)

[Come Together to Support One Another in Response to Recent Tragic Events of Racial Violence and Discrimination](#)

The [Student Life Multicultural Center](#) is hosting forums throughout the week.

[Black Student Forum](#)

[Ways of Showing Up for Racial Justice During a Pandemic](#)

[Allies and Advocates: Ways to Show Up for Racial Justice](#)

Thank you for everything you already do to close the gap for Columbus City Schools students. We need your voice now more than ever to combat the injustices committed against the Black community. We hope you are able to take action while finding peace during this time.

*“We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.”*

— Ellie Wiesel

In solidarity,

Jack Gearhiser, *President*

Matthew N. Leder (he/him/his), *Vice President*

Jacob Culp, *Treasurer*

Marissa Myers, *Marketing Chair*

Kiara Hawkins, *Mentoring Chair*

Andrew Tweedy, *Chief of Staff*

Joshua Govine, *Operations Chair*

Anna Valerius (she/hers), *Recruitment Chair*



