Dear students, faculty, and staff:

It’s hard to fathom that almost a year has gone by since the appalling death of George Floyd, which represented just one of many cases of racism across our country. The trial of Derek Chauvin and verdict today have caused those heavy feelings of anger, sadness, pain, fear and uncertainty to resurface and for us to again confront the pain and suffering faced by the Black community in our country.

For each and every one of you, I want you to know you are not alone. You are surrounded by a School family who sees you, hears you, and embraces you. Together, we aspire to be a diverse and inclusive community of people where all are appreciated for who they are.

We will host an open School forum tomorrow (April 21) from 4 p.m.-5 p.m., where we can each share our thoughts. Please register to attend here.

And as the Chancellor just shared with you, I want to reiterate University resources to support our community are available. The Office for Diversity and Inclusion and the Carolina Black Caucus will sponsor a virtual Black Community Convening for African American and Black students, faculty and staff at noon tomorrow. Students, including graduate and professional students and post-doctoral students may contact the Dean of Students team, the Office for Diversity and Inclusion, Counseling and Psychological Services or Student Wellness. CAPS also facilitates the Multicultural Health Program, including counseling and events for the BIPOC community. Faculty and staff should reach out to the Employee Assistance Program or access any of these resources for the BIPOC community.

Please know that my commitment to diversity and inclusive excellence for this School is unwavering and I want to ensure you have the support you need. For professional and graduate students who may find it helpful to talk or to learn more about both University and School resources available to you, please reach out to the Office of Curricular and Student Affairs. Faculty and staff may contact Suzie Harris (suzanne_harris@unc.edu), Director of Well-being and Resilience; and Carla White (carla@unc.edu) Associate Dean of Organizational Diversity and Inclusion.

And always, my virtual door is open to you.

Sincerely,

Angela

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