Dear CEHD Community,

March 2022 will mark the two-year anniversary of when the COVID-19 pandemic first “took the world by storm”. In this two-year time period, we have witnessed, experienced, and/or observed several notable events take place across the nation, state, and locally here at the university. From our original transition to the virtual working and learning space, to the racial “reckoning” that was sparked after the murder of George Floyd and the predictable backlash that has followed, to the election of a new President of the United States and the deep political and cultural divisions that stubbornly persist in its aftermath, to our eventual “return” to campus and the many changes in leadership and structure that are ongoing at the university we continue to be faced with many challenges, but also, opportunities related to climate, recruitment, retention, and equity in/for the college. The rhetoric and legal talk around critical race theory (CRT) and related frameworks in public education could adversely affect the workplace and learning climate, and likely present major challenges to our recruitment and retention of faculty, students, and staff who, in particular, are committed to this work via their research, teaching, and/or service activities. In this regard, I reiterate my message from our Fall 2020 newsletter that we stand firmly behind those of you who do this important work, and will support and encourage you to keep doing it. This is one of the reasons we formally established the Equity and Social Justice Collective back in 2020, and plan to grow and evolve it going forward.

As we continue to navigate the current sociopolitical climate in this nation and state, the uncertainties related to university realignment, and our transition over the next academic year from the “College” to “School” of Education and Human Development, I urge you to take this opportunity to critically reflect on your respective role in the college and how the work you do contributes to the college’s mission and strategic plan. I also challenge everyone to think about ways we might refine this plan going forward. Our recent completion of the ODDI strategic plan—which we plan to make publicly available on our website in March 2022—could be a starting point for helping us to augment our broader college plan, with a particular focus on equity in our policies, processes, and practices.

John N. Singer, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion
CARTER & LARKE BLACK EDUCATION & HISTORY LECTURE

"Towards Democracy and Equity in Education"

Carter and Larke Lecturer:

Kellie Carter Jackson, Ph.D.

Kellie Carter Jackson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Africana Studies at Wellesley College. She earned her B.A. at her beloved Howard University and her Ph.D from Columbia University working with the esteemed historian Eric Foner.

FEB 28, 2022  11:30AM-1:00PM

Legacy of Excellence and Equity Lifetime Achievement Award

Grace Butler, Ph.D.

Dr. Butler is the first African American to earn Full Professor at Texas A&M University in the College of Education and Human Development in 1983. Dr. Butler then transitioned to serve as the special advisor to the President of Texas A&M University. In this capacity, she championed initiatives to create access to graduate programming for diverse learners and faculty hiring programs that paved the way for faculty like Dr. Larke and Dr. Carter.

Research & Leadership Awards

Gwen Webb, Ph.D.
2022 Legacy of Excellence and Equity Research Award

Ms. Marie Sheller
2022 Legacy of Excellence and Equity Leadership Award

Register at:  [tx.ag/CarterLarkeReg2022](tx.ag/CarterLarkeReg2022)

Conference attendees may choose to attend online or in-person during registration.
The event will be on the Texas A&M University campus, Bethancourt Ballroom A/B/C (MSC).
On-site catering provided by LAMAR & NIKTS Pit BBQ & Soul Food Cafe.
2022 Black History Month

The national theme for 2022 is Black Health and Wellness, outlined by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). Learn more about ASALH and the origins of Black History Month in the United States.

Black History Month TAMU Calendar of Events

Black History Month at Texas A&M University is an ever-expanding celebration. The mission of the Black History Month Committee is to collaborate within the university to plan, execute, and facilitate a month-long series of events and activities that provide education and enrichment about people of African ancestry and culture and their contributions to society past and present (Learn More).

Library Guides

Continue the celebration with a Black History Month Zoom background.

Option 1 | Option 2

HTTPS://TAMU.LIBGUIDES.COM/BLACKHISTORYMONTH/2022
Spotlighting our CEHD Equity and Social Justice Champions

Dalvin Dunn
Higher Education Doctoral Student, EAHR

Mikayla Slaydon
INST Child Professional Services Major

Kelley O’Neal
Director, Byrne Student Success Center, DEAN

ArCasia James-Gallaway
Assistant Professor, TLAC
Aggie Allies Workshop Dates

SPRING 2022

Aggie Allies would like to announce the schedule for Spring 2022 Allies Advance Workshops:

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 from 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM via Zoom
Sunday, March 27, 2022 from 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM via Zoom
Wednesday, April 13, 2022 from 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM via Zoom
Sunday, April 24, 2022 from 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM via Zoom

Who are Allies?
Allies include staff, faculty, and students at Texas A&M University and members of the Bryan/College Station community who have committed to providing a safe space for LGBT individuals. Allies who have completed the training will display an Ally placard outside their office or residence hall room, interrupting homophobic language, being a movable safe space, etc. This placard identifies them as individuals who are willing to provide a safe haven, a listening ear, and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people or anyone dealing with sexual orientation issues.

How to Become an Ally
All Allies have attended a training workshop called an Advance to learn about the benefits and responsibilities of being an Ally. Every Ally has signed an Allies contract before posting their placard.

What do Allies do?
Some Allies choose to advocate more visibly by participating in events like Coming Out Week or LGBT Awareness Week, while others display their placard and that is all. It is up to the individual to decide how they want to be an Ally.

Allies is an independent campus Committee currently hosted by the Department of Student Life. The organization was started in the summer of 1993 by a group of students and staff members of the Division of Student Affairs who were interested in showing support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the University community.
AHA NEWS: AMID A NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS FOR KIDS, HERE'S HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

By American Heart Association News, HealthDay

School closures. Family strains. Isolated and quarantined friends. Even when young people haven't directly experienced COVID-19, the pandemic has strained their mental health. Often severely.

Even before the recent wave of omicron-related cases, a coalition that included the American Academy of Pediatrics declared a national emergency in child and adolescent mental health. Its October statement reported "soaring rates of mental health challenges among children, adolescents and their families."

In December, U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy addressed the crisis with a report that said young people face "devastating" mental health challenges.(READ MORE).