



Subject: We are with you

Dear AHEPPP colleagues:

Each of us has struggled deeply with the events that have transpired over the past four weeks: LGBTQ and ally victims, Black victims, law enforcement victims, violence, trauma, and grief. We are sad. We are devastated. We are outraged.

To our Black colleagues and friends, you matter and we stand with you. To our LGBTQ and Latinx colleagues and friends, you matter and we stand with you. To those who identify with any of the communities impacted and who stand at the intersections, you matter and we stand with you.

Many of us are struggling and we hope you take the time to reach out to others and provide support, as well as take time for self-care. The trauma individuals experience is real, especially for members of the communities directly impacted by racism and violence. Educate yourself. Make a meaningful connection filled with honest dialogue. Speak your truth. Listen well.

As an association committed to working with parents and families of our college/university students, let us find ways to ensure that the arc of the universe "bends toward justice" as Martin Luther King, Jr. so eloquently reminded us. What can we do to support those who are hurting, especially Black families who send their students to our university communities and wonder if their loved ones will truly be safe? Do we acknowledge the different concerns, worries and fears that black and brown families have? Will students be free from the daily micro-aggressions that many of us have the privilege to not even notice? These are not new questions.

In the face of tragedy and injustice, we want to move from empathy to action. To help the members of our association both personally and professionally, we will offer a special session prior to our 2016 National Conference on Monday, November 14. This three-hour, pre-conference workshop, "Working with Historically Oppressed Populations on Healing and Action," will be conducted by Dr. Jamie Washington. The pre-conference session will take place in the afternoon and will be free for all AHEPPP members registered for the conference. More information will be provided as soon as the details are finalized.

If you want to voice your opinion, share a concern or resource, post a question or offer encouragement, please use our [AHEPPP Members Discussion Group](#) on Facebook or

email us at [info@iheppp.org](mailto:info@iheppp.org). You are also welcome to contact us directly at the email addresses listed below.

We stand together.

Sincerely,

Brian Watkins  
President  
Director, Parent and Family Affairs  
University of Maryland  
[bwatkins@umd.edu](mailto:bwatkins@umd.edu)

Branka Kristic  
President-Elect  
Director, Parent and Family Programs  
Hofstra University  
[Branka.Kristic@hofstra.edu](mailto:Branka.Kristic@hofstra.edu)