Over the past few months, we have experienced major challenges that threaten our communities. We are in the midst of a global pandemic, and most recently we have witnessed racism play out in the national spotlight. The protests of the past few days have underscored the tragic reality that the health and welfare of our communities are threatened in many ways, and we must use our knowledge and our strength and unite to overcome these challenges.

Individuals who express racist ideologies or discriminatory rhetoric do not represent the University of Delaware or the UD College of Health Sciences. We disavow racially charged social media posts. We warn against behaving outside of the student code of conduct, the mission of the College of Health Sciences, and the code of ethics of our university and our respective health disciplines.

The University of Delaware unequivocally condemns violence, racism, and discrimination, underscored by recent statements from President Dennis Assanis on May 29 and June 4. Moreover, the College of Health Sciences recognizes that racism is also a public health crisis that contributes to health and healthcare disparities and reduces quality of life and longevity for communities of color. We are committed to promoting and practicing social justice, respect and inclusivity among our students, faculty, and staff, as well as our communities. We are committed to training our students in an environment that emphasizes diversity and inclusive excellence. Our students are trained in cultural competency and to serve in the best ways possible as future healthcare leaders.

We realize that students, faculty, and staff have been greatly impacted by many of the events that are happening in our world now. Our hearts are with all of you as we navigate this difficult time together. Please take care of your physical and mental health and utilize available student, faculty, and staff resources. Most importantly gather strength through the social support of family and friends. Reach out to us if there are ways we can help and support you. Now, more than ever, we must find the opportunities to shine the light on the importance of equality, of compassion, and justice for all. We must work together to improve the quality of life for all that we serve.

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