



**WESTOP
NORCAL**

June 3rd, 2020

Official Statement by Western Association of Educational Opportunity Personnel, Northern California Chapter in solidarity with Black Lives Matter.

We are devastated by the senseless murders of **Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd**. Their deaths are just the latest in a string of police brutality and crimes towards Black people and the Black community at large. As an organization that welcomes members from different social-economic, ethnic, and other intersectional identities, we cannot be silent during these times. To be silent is to be complicit. We must use our platform to be a voice for our students and staff. We must speak out against systemic racism, individual acts of bigotry, and the injustices occurring in our country. We must not only raise awareness but also make a commitment as an organization to do better and empower change now.

If you need support, need to talk to someone, or would like to get involved here is a working document with resources:

[List of Resources](#)

The WESTOP Board is pleased to announce that Dr. Darlene Murray, Student Equity Coordinator at Reedley College, has agreed to walk us through this conversation with our membership and offer resources to our membership on how to reach out to our students, our peers and further educate each other. I hope you can join us. Registration info below:

A Critical Conversation: #BlackLivesMatter

June 4, 2020 3:00-4:30 PM (Pacific Time)

[Registration Link](#)

The WESTOP Northern California Chapter will continue to stand with the Black community and the Black Lives Matter movement. We will continue to find ways to support our communities and empower those in need. If you would like to share your suggestions on how the Northern California Chapter can create safe spaces for dialogue, empowerment, and change, please contact the chapter president at norcal.westop.president@gmail.com.

In solidarity,

WESTOP NorCal Chapter