

DARS' statement on American Racism:

As our society is dealing with a pandemic, the chronic condition of American Racism has also been festering. We have been horrified and incensed. Today, we want everyone to know that the Department of Addictions and Rehabilitation Studies believes that (a) Black Lives Matter and (b) American Racism must be healed for Black Americans to have full participation in society.

As Counselors, we are passionate about listening, without judgment, to any individual regardless of their race, ethnicity, age, gender, nationality, creed, religion, disability, gender/sexual orientation, etc. But for American Racism and all other bigotries, listening is not enough.

Indeed, the American Counseling Association's Code of Ethics Standard on Advocacy states "When appropriate, counselors advocate at individual, group, institutional, and societal levels to address potential barriers and obstacles that inhibit access and/or the growth and development of clients."

Thus, the Department of Addictions and Rehabilitation Studies will be taking additional action toward the healing of American Racism. Part of this action will include an "American Racism Advocacy Project" to be infused in each course offered by our department.

We are also re-committing to growth. We will muster unprecedented courage to continuously and respectfully confront and transcend our own biases and "blind spots." To this end, we will be seeking help from and collaboration with appropriate groups and organizations.

While these actions will represent a small fraction of what will be needed to end 350-plus years of American Racism, every small fraction has value. Not to take these actions is tantamount to silence. To remain silent would be unethical.

We will listen. We will advocate. We will grow.