

July 19, 2021

DARS Family,

In the wake of recent events at ECU, DARS' Faculty want to reaffirm to current, future, and former students, as well as to our stakeholders that we are fully committed to being anti-racist and anti-bigoted. While we do not argue against individuals' free speech rights, we believe that hateful racist and bigoted speech is absolutely incompatible with being a counselor, a rehabilitation professional, and counselor educator. Indeed, we concur with Drs. Dollarhide, Hale, and Sabali who wrote that "Social justice...is a moral and ethical responsibility for all counselors" (2021, p.104). Thus, we conclude that such speech whether it occurs in a professional context or social media context is a violation of our code of ethics and our professional moral foundation, and it will not be tolerated by DARS.

While we are not perfectly anti-racist nor anti-bigoted, DARS has been implementing several processes and systems to move us in a responsible direction. A full report of these actions and future plans will be communicated in the next couple of weeks. As always, if you have suggestions and/or want to help with the above challenge, please let me know- toriellop@ecu.edu.

Forward!

Dr. T

Reference: Dollarhide, C. T., Hale, S. C., & Stone-Sabali, S. (2021). A New Model for Social Justice Supervision. *Journal of Counseling and Development*, 99, pp. 104-113.