

July 15, 2020

These are emotional times

Waves of pain-filled anger are flooding across our communities regarding historical racist practices and continued injustices. Many communities, including members of Black communities, feel that the time for patience has ended and the need for active, productive community dialog with law enforcement is urgently needed to provide any hope for the future. As academic leaders, we bear the responsibility to make space for the voicing of these grievances and actively participate in ensuring the practice of inclusivity, equity, and justice for all.

Role of the Women's Research Institute

The Women's Research Institute of Nevada has worked for twenty years to facilitate research and education encouraging people to recognize that cultural changes are needed for society and institutions to correct the past wrongs facing those experiencing silencing, discrimination, or prejudices. In doing so, we've helped to close gaps, build bridges, and foster student-led innovations.

- Our **MAKERS Series** highlights what women of diverse experiences and backgrounds including those of underserved and socially marginalized groups have contributed to our communities and gives voice to those who have long-needed to be recognized.
- Our **National Education for Women Leadership (NEWL)** program provides leadership training, mentoring, and civic engagement to Nevada college students of diverse ethnic and class backgrounds.
- Our **Status of Women in Nevada's** reports illustrate the existing and widening economic and educational gaps for women, especially for members of communities of color, which inherently leads to decreasing opportunities for all.

Ways we believe we can do more

- We support UNLV administration's efforts in creating the Anti-Black Racism task force and increased scholarly attention to African American and African diaspora studies. UNLV has a diverse student population and we will make a greater commitment to include diverse faculty at every level, and to include speakers that represent these diverse communities to campus forums.
- We actively seek opportunities to support our broad network of NEWL alumnae with mentorship opportunities across our community. We pledge increased outreach to community partners in hosting more events that deal proactively with gender, racial and economic justice.
- We will actively promote the impact of Black women on Nevada's history using teaching modules based on the **MAKERS Series**.
- We will continue to highlight the lack of gender and race data in several areas including: industry-specific employment opportunities, healthcare, mental health, childcare programs and funding, increases in domestic violence, and investments in women-owned businesses.

With commitment and optimism for healing and hope,

Dr. Caryll Batt Dziedziak, Interim Director