Opening Remarks: Series Kick-off

It is an important time, so thank you for joining us for this first of four conversations aimed at helping our university community – our students, staff and faculty - and the community we serve explore how current social unrest is impacting us .

We ask ourselves: what can we do to makes sense of what is happening.

We ask ourselves: how can we traverse these troubling and deep cross currents.

We ask ourselves: what can we do to create a better and more just society.

In other words, how can we act to make tomorrow better than today.

We are a caring and diverse community, one of the most diverse in America. We are justly proud of our diversity.

We remind ourselves that Texas is the most diverse state in America if you are 24 and younger. Those demographics don’t change over time. What that means is that our students are preparing to become the leaders of this state.

Our students want and deserve true lasting cultural change. They are preparing themselves to live, work and participate in a nation free of prejudice and hate.

And they are here because they realize education provides them with the tools to a better future.

We are troubled by the senseless deaths of countless men and women of color now and over the span of time.

These deaths are deeply felt and spur us to seek lasting change.

Our first focused conversation is entitled “Coping: How to Channel Pain, Anger and Frustration into Promise” and will be led by Dr. Jamaica Chapple, our AVP for Student Access and Success and Dean of Students.

Dr. Chapple is a trained clinician and also has been part of our UNT Dallas and of our UNT System teams that have led our response to the COVID-19 crisis.