

### A Statement on Police Brutality and Racial Injustice

Like many around our nation, our hearts are saddened by the number of recent killings of Black individuals by law enforcement and at the hands of racially motivated individuals. Our senses are angered by the injustice of these deaths, and we mourn the loss of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and the other lives lost to racial violence. We recognize that these killings are but the latest of many and that this injustice reflects the deeper racial injustices that plague our nation and the world. We recognize that these tragedies are only the latest manifestation of a country founded in inequality, built on slavery, and too often content with perpetuating structural racism and systemic discrimination. We affirm that Black Lives Matter, and we stand in partnership with the calls for systemic reform.

The Education Policy Research Center at the University of Florida is committed to improving racial equity in the United States through applied research and by providing evidence to drive effective policy in the state and beyond. We recognize that our educational systems, including the one in which we work, can both perpetuate and reinforce inequality, yet hold the potential to be one of the greatest pathways to a more just and equitable society.

As a Center, we commit to combating the inequalities of our society and to working to provide research-based pathways to reducing educational inequality. We commit to being reflective of our practices and to working to create an inclusive and supportive environment.

We look optimistically forward to joining with the efforts of our College, University, State and all of those who believe in a just world to move proactively toward a more equitable future.

Sincerely,



F. Chris Curran, PhD  
Co-Director, Education Policy Research Center  
Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy  
University of Florida, College of Education  
[chriscurran@coe.ufl.edu](mailto:chriscurran@coe.ufl.edu)



Dennis A. Kramer II, Ph.D.  
Co-Director, Education Policy Research Center  
Assistant Professor of Education and Public Policy  
[dkramer@coe.ufl.edu](mailto:dkramer@coe.ufl.edu)