

**Louisiana Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance**

**4420 Downing Drive**

**Baton Rouge, LA 70809**

**Office (225) 335-9431 Fax (225) 929-8700**

**www.LAHPERD.org**

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| **President**  **Kerri Lee**  **Kerri.lee@zacharyschool.org** | **President-Elect**  **K-Lynn McKey**  **k-lynn.mckey@louisiana.edu** | **Past President**  **Karen Simpson**  **karen.simpson@cpsb.org** | **Executive Director**  **Lynn Williamson**  **lwilliamson@ebrschools.org** |

LAHPERD is a diverse organization with members spanning all walks of life; we represent various races, genders, ethnicities, ages, and interests. We feel compelled to respond to the recent murder of George Floyd and those before him, as well as other instances of racial injustice that are rampant across our country and state.

Though we realize that one statement does not begin to touch the heartbreak that racism has caused, we cannot be silent and complicit during this time. We do not support racial injustice; we do not support overt or covert racism; we do not support explicit bias. As an organization, we vow to continue and increase our efforts in providing education for our members in the following areas:

· Develop and share tools to reflect on implicit biases and create positive change

· Provide information on perpetuating racism and how to systematically dismantle these issues

· Deliver culturally sensitive information to increase consistency and fairness for all

· Improve efforts to increase membership and board participation so our organization better mirrors the populations we serve

· Work with related organizations to incorporate more race-based content, research, and dialogue

· Provide a supportive environment so that all members can exercise their right to be heard as we seek justice together

As an organization, our hearts are open, our ears are listening, and our minds are focused on being intent with our words, our actions, and our choices. We will continue to speak up for meaningful dialogue and for solutions. We will speak to each other, and we will use our lives to seek justice together. With our youngest students in mind, we will continue to fight against inequalities and stand firm in our mission to create a safe, inclusive space for all members across the fields of health, physical education, recreation, and dance.