



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND COUNSELING

Email Sent on June 19th, 2020

Good Afternoon Members of the Department of Education & Counseling,

On this Juneteenth, we are pleased to share our departmental statement addressing racism and police violence.

This 155th Juneteenth, a celebratory day for many, is a symbolic reminder that oppression is systemic and perpetuated by many. On June 19, 1865, in Galveston, TX, Union Army general Gordon Granger proclaimed all slaves in Texas were free. This was nearly 30 months after the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect.

Think about this.

White Texans withheld information about the emancipation of African Americans from slavery. They were collectively complicit in the physical and mental oppression of their fellow humans not just under slavery but for nearly 900 days after it was abolished. To put this in context, we have been in “quarantine” and socially distancing for under 100 days. We are all feeling some sense of suffering or malcontent. People are protesting this isolation because it feels like a violation of our right to freedom. Yet, the conditions of our social isolation are nothing compared to slavery.

As we think about events in recent weeks, months, years that have raised our collective awareness of systematic violence against Black and Brown bodies, we must ask ourselves, what will our Juneteenth be? And on what side of history do we want to land?

The attached statement of commitment, action, and solidarity was prepared to represent our collective efforts to do better and be better.

Sincerely,
Department of Education & Counseling