

Black Lives Matter, New Mexico Association for the Gifted Stands in Solidarity

George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, David McAtee, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery. These are the names of Black men and women who have been victims of America's legacy of racism and police brutality. The New Mexico Association for the Gifted categorically denounces this legacy. We must use our positions as educators to advocate for an end to systemic racism and police brutality. We must use our positions as educators to unequivocally declare that Black Lives Matter.

As NAGC President, Jonathan Plucker stated in the organization's condemnation of this legacy, "the field of gifted education has a checkered past regarding the promotion of equity." These events should force us to re-evaluate the way that we view giftedness and our responsibilities to Black, Indigenous *and* People of Color students, teachers, parents, and communities and re-dedicate ourselves to ensuring equity for our students.

In the state of New Mexico this means ensuring equitable funding and services for gifted education in all schools regardless of zip code. It means ensuring that we use identification strategies that allow Black students to show their giftedness and not be hidden behind testing that preferences middle class, White students. It means being the voice in the room that demands that our schools, administrations, and communities acknowledge the history of racism in gifted education and provide ways forward. It means listening when Black students, parents, teachers, and communities tell us what they need. It means acknowledging the privileged positions that we speak from and amplifying the voices of the marginalized.

There is much work to be done in New Mexico and in the United States. We must listen, learn, and ensure that everyone is treated with dignity and respect. We must fight the inequities in our school systems and in our communities.

Black Lives Matter, Black Students Matter, Black Parents Matter, Black Educators Matter.

In solidarity,
New Mexico Association for the Gifted Executive Board