June 3, 2020

Dear Students, Staff, and Faculty,

*All of us are right to be very concerned by the domestic situation in the United States right now.*

And, against the past and current backdrop of racism, civil rights violations, and civil unrest, it is critically important for each of us in the College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences to reaffirm our individual commitment to diversity and inclusion and a College free of discrimination and harassment.

Our College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences (A&GS) fully supports the statements issued by OU President Harroz, the American Association of Geographers, American Meteorological Society, and the American Geophysical Union.


Our college is committed to offering an inclusive and equitable experience to all students, staff, and faculty. During this difficult time, the A&GS Diversity and Inclusivity Council is working closely with OU’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion office.

The Goals of the A&GS Council for Diversity and Inclusivity are ([http://diversity.ags.ou.edu](http://diversity.ags.ou.edu)):

- *To develop, promote and monitor the effectiveness of diversity and inclusivity programs and initiatives in A&GS;*

- *Coordinate with, and support the activities of the campus-wide Diversity and Inclusivity Academic Council, as well as other entities engaged in efforts to promote diversity and inclusivity at the University of Oklahoma;*
• Serve as the compass and conscience of the college in ensuring that A&GS is proactive in sharing, adopting, and implementing best diversity and inclusivity practices with respect to students, faculty and staff welfare, recruitment, retention, and graduation or promotion;

• Function as source of reference, information, and “point-of-contact” for members of the college to share experiences, observations, and suggestions related to diversity and inclusivity

The College of A&GS believes that the richness of diversity is an extraordinarily important asset for the College; we treasure both the similarities and differences of every member of the College. We know that diversity builds a stronger College, particularly as it reinforces and exemplifies the Core Values of the University of Oklahoma.

In striving to maintain and enhance the College’s environment, which is fundamentally founded on mutual respect, we do not and will not tolerate any form of discrimination or harassment that is based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender/sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, or veteran status.

If you have any concerns about racism or other forms of discrimination in our College, please contact me (berrien@ou.edu) or share you concerns with diversity@ags.ou.edu.

Think about others; think about these thoughts:

• “There are no passengers on spaceship Earth. We are all crew.” – Marshall McLuhan

• “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” – Margaret Mead

• “No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.” – Nelson Mandela

Stay Safe. We are all together. We are all Crew.

Sincerely,

Berrien Moore III
Dean, College of Atmospheric & Geographic Sciences
Chesapeake Energy Corporation Chair in Climate Studies
Director, National Weather Center