

## Indigenous Solidarity with the Black Community



The Native American Cultural Center stands in solidarity with all our community brothers and sisters who are harmed by racial injustice, health and economic disparities, and violence. Together with you, we grieve the loss of life and well-being. The beloved Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, Wilma Mankiller, reminds us that, “The most fulfilled people are the ones who get up every morning and stand for something larger than themselves. They are the people who care about others, who will extend a helping hand to someone in need or will speak up about an injustice when they see it.”

We at NACC pledge to commit our hearts and minds to educating ourselves, to being intentional listeners in the spirit of Tribal Peacemaking, to taking action to disrupt systemic racism, to championing the health and wellness of our diverse communities, and to building a culture of understanding and healing. We are in this together.



The members of the SAIO 50th Anniversary steering committee enter this third week of our celebration of SAIO and the Stanford Powwow with hearts weighed down in sorrow by the murders of George Floyd,

Breonna Taylor, and so many others. It has and continues to be reality in the United States that the lives and safety of our Black and Afro-Indigenous friends, family, and selves are at risk in every interaction that have fed and sustained racism and inequality since 1492, and that the members of our community will continue to answer the call. with law enforcement, whether that interaction came about while exercising First Amendment Rights, trying to pay with a \$20 bill, driving down the street, or even sleeping.

We are enraged by the racism and impunity that have allowed brutality to become standard operating procedure when police encounter people of color. We know right now many of our fellow alumni are working to elevate Black voices, push for lasting systemic change, and support the Black community, including confronting anti-Blackness in our own indigenous communities. We also know that many are hurting deeply and processing not only the events of the past nine days, but their context in the long history of violence against Black and brown bodies in the Americas.

We hope that the power of this moment will finally push our leaders and politicians to dismantle forever the systems that have fed and sustained racism and inequality since 1492, and that the members of our community will continue to answer the call.