August 13, 2017

Dear Members of the College of Education and Human Services Community,

In light of the shocking events in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the equivocation on the part of some of our national leaders regarding their stance on hate and bigotry, we are writing to reiterate the fundamental commitment of the College of Education and Human Services at Montclair State University to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice, and to the democratic and humanitarian ideals that have animated the efforts of many in this country to work to increase civil and human rights.

In these uncertain times, we must be clear about our values and straightforward in asserting them. We in the College of Education and Human Services are unequivocal in our assertion that hate and bigotry are unacceptable. The racism, white nationalism, anti-semitism, homophobia, xenophobia, and bigotry that led to the murder of one peaceful protester and to injuries of many others in Charlottesville last weekend are unacceptable.

The College strives to be a progressive, innovative, national leader in the preparation of educators and human services professionals who possess the knowledge, skills, and habits of mind to work toward a healthier, better educated and more just society.

As scholars and educators, we stand resolutely against Nazis, white supremacists, and white nationalists like those who carried torches, firearms, and racist flags and symbols in Charlottesville. And we stand in support of those who protest against hate groups.

We are heartbroken by the events in Charlottesville and by the absence of moral leadership that could mitigate such hate and violence. We must stand together with each other and with all who resist such bigotry.

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