



Student Government Association

Pitt-Greensburg Student Government Association in Conjunction with the Black Student Union and the Diversity Student Coalition Statement on the Murder of George Floyd and Student Support for Black Students.

On behalf of the student body of Pitt-Greensburg, the Student Government Association would like to share the support of the entire campus community with our Black students and their families during these troubling times that have been ignited by hatred, racism, injustice, and lack of action our country has possessed since it's inception yet again following the murder of George Floyd. The students of Pitt-Greensburg and their elected voices acknowledge the pain, anger, frustration, sadness, and fear that our Black students, and students around the country, are going through not just currently, but historically, and in the days to come.

Since the beginning of our country, the Black community has been both designated as and treated as lesser than their white counterparts. Any Black person qualified as 3/5ths in worth. This racism, hatred, and disdain existed as a blemish from our country's beginning. A blemish that not only existed and persisted in the country's early years, but that evolved and grew into common acceptance into America's entire structure, politically, judicially, and societally, as is shown when any member of law enforcement wrongfully kills a Black citizen and faces little consequence or justice, like with the killing of George Floyd. That blemish can never truly be expunged from our America, but it can be lessened to mere history if the racism, supremacy, and lack of action is corrected by listening to, acknowledging the trials of, and standing with the Black community and truly believing that Black Lives Matter.

Pitt-Greensburg's biggest weakness is a lack of diversity. Students acknowledge this weakness, their families acknowledge this weakness, faculty and staff acknowledge this weakness, and the administration of Pitt-Greensburg acknowledges this weakness. It's very clear on our campus, and most certainly is an undeniable weakness that our campus has. The City of Greensburg itself, along with Westmoreland County, suffers from the same lack of diversity with nearly 95% of the population being white. Because of the lack of diversity Black students face at Pitt-Greensburg, the Student Government Association, campus leaders, and campus

administration have become aware of the uncomfortability, lack of belonging, and overall unwelcomeness that Black students experience on campus.

This awareness and acknowledgement has led to the campus, in many facets, committing itself with one mission: to do better for our Black students. That mission by extension sought to provide not just a more comfortable and welcome academic experience for students, but to also provide students with a home environment that many students receive at Pitt-Greensburg. This awareness and acknowledgement led to the creation of our Black Student Union and continued efforts to support our Diversity Student Coalition, two highly-respected groups characterised by passionate, thoughtful, and committed students who seek inclusion for the Black students and all students on campus.

Following the aftermath of George Floyd's murder and powerful protests around the country, the Pitt-Greensburg administration, Student Government Association, and all students commit to continuing to do better for the sake of our Black students. From the words of campus President Dr. Robert Gregerson, we continue to strive to do better for our Black students, by committing to "being an inclusive and supportive educational community that does not accept intolerance and bigotry, but instead welcomes and supports all."

The students of Pitt-Greensburg are committed to learning from, listening to, acknowledging, and being non-acceptant of the intolerance our Black students on campus feel in their daily lives and will stand against any force that threatens the livelihoods and well-being of our Black students.

RESOURCES:

BLM Resources

[NAACP Greensburg-Jeannette](#) improves the political, educational, social and economic status of minority groups: to eliminate racial prejudice; to keep the public aware of the adverse affects of racial discrimination; and to take all lawful action to secure its elimination, consistent with the efforts of the national organization and in conformity with the Articles of Incorporation of the Association, its Constitution and By-Laws and as directed by the National Board of Directors.

[Westmoreland Diversity Coalition](#) creates, through advocacy and education, an atmosphere of understanding and unity in Westmoreland County where all people feel welcome.

[YWCA International Women's Group](#) welcomes women of all nationalities to Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. The international Women's Group provides a meeting place for women to

meet, develop friendships, share and learn about the United States, improve their English and become a part of their new community.

[YWCA Racial Justice Events](#) is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

[Blackburn Center](#) actively advocates for the rights of all people to live free from violence and oppression in their homes and communities and provides supportive services to survivors of all forms of domestic violence and sexual assault.

[House of Worship Booklet](#) gives a listing of local religious institutions by faith.

[Persad Center](#) is a human service organization whose mission is to improve the well-being of the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning) communities, and the HIV/AIDS communities. We serve our target populations and their loved ones, cradle to grave, across western Pennsylvania, with service centers in Pittsburgh, Washington and Erie Pennsylvania.

[PFLAG \(Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays\) Greensburg](#) promotes the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunities for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

[The Trevor Project](#) is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth. Hotline 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

[Westmoreland LGBTQ Interfaith Network](#) is a group of people who affirm the spirituality of all LGBTQ people and their friends and allies.

Thank you,

John Kerlicker
2020 - 2021 Student Government Association President

Melissa Paravate
2020 - 2021 Student Government Senate President

Melissa Crookston

2020 - 2021 Student Government Speaker of the House of Representatives

Olivia Policicchio, Robert Miller, Caitlin Kavulick, Maggie Titus, Josh Hoeth, Hayden Wolfe & Esther Camick

2020 - 2021 Student Government Senators