



# California Council on Teacher Education

## Statement by the Board of Directors of the California Council on Teacher Education on Anti-Black Racism

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As teacher educators we are entrusted with a sacred responsibility to prepare current and future PK-12 educators to work with their students, the future of our state and country. We prepare these educators not only to teach, but also to support children, in their full humanity, and to nourish their potential as scholars, citizens, and, most importantly, as human beings.

We prepare them both in and for a society, however, that has been founded on systemic anti-Blackness and that continues to reflect negative outcomes for Black students and Black educators disproportionately. The effects and damage of anti-Blackness in society, while increasingly visible at this time, have been present here for the last 400 years.

The consequence of this systematic racism is that the brilliance that Black students bring to schools often goes unrecognized; the community knowledge that Black families and neighborhoods bring to classrooms is often dismissed; and the wisdom and advocacy that Black educators and teacher educators bring to classrooms, schools, districts, research, and our field are often disregarded or co-opted to forward agendas that maintain the status quo.

Instead, Black students are too often pushed out of schools, Black communities feel unwelcome in school spaces, and Black educators and teacher educators are subjected to micro-aggressions and hostilities as they do their work and advocate for students.

This is wrong.

Black students matter.

Black families matter.

Black communities matter.

Black educators matter.

Black teacher educators matter.

Individually and as an organization, we are committed to going beyond a statement condemning anti-Black racism and its impact on education and society. We commit to doing the work that shows that Black Lives Matter. We will do this by:

- ◆ Continuing to work on unlearning the impact of anti-Blackness and racism in our own lives and practices and holding one another accountable,
- ◆ Listening to and using what privilege we may have to advocate for and with our Black colleagues, Black students, and Black people in our lives,
- ◆ Supporting policies and actively working to diversify teaching and teacher education, and
- ◆ Finding ways to respect, highlight, and learn from the work of Black students, educators, and teacher educators.

By taking these small but significant steps, as individuals and as an organization, we can begin doing the work of dismantling anti-Black racism and oppression that exists in our communities, in education, and in teacher education programs. We can move Black voices to the center in education and teacher education spaces, challenging deficit anti-Black discourses and policies that continue to harm educators, children, and, by extension, our society at large.