



Dear ASCA Member,

ASCA [condemns the systemic racism that persists in our country](#) and calls on leaders to enact and enforce laws protecting members of the black community. Like you, the ASCA Board of Directors and staff are deeply saddened by the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and the many others who preceded them. Racism has no place in our schools, our communities, our nation or our world. ASCA has always been committed to providing school counselors with resources and tools to close achievement and opportunity gaps, to address inequities in their schools and communities, to advocate for students, and to promote safe and supportive learning environments. ASCA commits to ensuring diverse voices are engaged and represented across issues in the field and commits to actively recruit diverse voices for leadership positions within our organization and committees.

As we continue to advocate for change at the national level, ASCA is also producing materials and launching new initiatives to both help you in your work with students and to further educate and inform communities about prejudice and privilege.

As you know, the ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors, the ASCA Professional Standards & Competencies and the ASCA National Model explicitly address the role of school counselors in promoting equity and access for all students. To further articulate the standards, ASCA has compiled them into a [single document](#), which describes how school counselors advocate for students and create environments that ensure equity through implementation of a school counseling program. On the ASCA website you'll also find a [list of resources](#), both ASCA-created and curated resources, to help guide conversations about racism and to help students manage the associated trauma.

Additionally, ASCA is launching several new initiatives and resources aimed at combating racism in schools and educating the school counseling community:

- Racism and social justice themed issue (July/August) of *ASCA School Counselor* magazine, with articles addressing implicit bias, race-based trauma, social justice in an ASCA National Model-based program, race conversations with students and more.
- Free Pop-Up ASCA Webinar: [Address Students' Race-Based Stress and Trauma](#), presented by Damien Sweeney, Ed.D., program coordinator for comprehensive school counseling, Kentucky Department of Education.

- Free Pop-Up Webinar: [Engage Staff on Issues of Race Through Book Study](#), June 23, 2020, 1 p.m. EDT, presented by Laura Linde, Jenni Standard and Jorge Torres, all school counselors at Foster High School, Tukwila, Wash. (Additional webinars are in development.)
- [ASCA Virtual Town Hall: Racism in Schools](#), June 12, 3 p.m., moderated by current and former School Counselors of the Year Laura Ross and Brian Coleman.
- ASCA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force to serve as advisors to board and staff and to ensure ASCA resources appropriately address systemic oppression, anti-racism and inclusivity.
- 12 sessions during [ASCA@Home](#) addressing multicultural, diversity and social justice topics.
- ASCA Book Club to read and discuss books about systemic racism, implicit bias and privilege featuring the author, when possible. ASCA will share discussion guides and tips for creating opportunities to share thoughts with other school counselors, colleagues, etc. Our first book is "[Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism, and You](#)," by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi. Pick up a copy from your local bookstore ([list of black-owned bookstores](#)) or online.
- ASCA U Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Specialist available in early fall and free to ASCA members.
- Updated and revised edition of the ASCA National Model companion "Making Diversity Work," focusing on equitable, inclusive and culturally responsible school counseling programs," which will be released in August.
- Special issue of *Professional School Counseling*: "Males of Color and School Counseling: Major Considerations and Best Practices," featuring guest editors Dr. Paul Harris (University of Virginia), Dr. James Moore (The Ohio State University) and Dr. Erik Hines (Florida State University), which will be released late summer/early fall.
- Additional, longer-term projects are also in the works.

ASCA's work extends well beyond the profession of school counseling to encompass education as a whole. To that end, we continue to collaborate with The Education Trust, Reach Higher, the ACLU, the Human Rights Campaign, Teaching Tolerance, the Learning First Alliance, the College Board, GLSEN, America's Promise, National Association of School Psychologists, the U.S. Department of Education and many other organizations on issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. This work is critical and helps elevate ASCA's voice at the national level.

Educators have long believed education is the path toward breaking the cycle of racism. It's only one path of many, but it's the path school counselors walk. Schools can and should do better to combat racism and systemic oppression. We encourage you to [share this document](#) with administrators and other school staff. You must have a seat at the table to ensure there's no place for racism in your school.

Further, we must be united in this work. We all play a role in fighting racism – whether we experience it firsthand or we witness it happening to others. Those of us who have been privileged to have never experienced racism and oppression

must recognize that privilege and advocate for all of our students, colleagues and families. In the introduction to "Stamped," Dr. Kendi says, "There will come a time when we will love humanity, when we will gain the courage to fight for an equitable society for our beloved humanity, knowing, intelligently, that when we fight for humanity, we are fighting for ourselves." Through you, its members, ASCA is committed to this work.