



Justice Prevails

November 24, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

It has been painful witnessing the struggle for justice over the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man.

Across the country, millions have watched with a great deal of emotion as the case unfolded. We felt outraged, angry, sad, and just plain tired of waiting for accountability.

Today, a jury found all three white male suspects guilty of murdering Ahmaud Arbery.

The verdict provides a sense of justice. Our thoughts are with the family and friends of Ahmaud Arbery, who will never get him back. But the struggle is not over.

Late last week, we learned that a Wisconsin jury acquitted Kyle Rittenhouse after he fatally shot two men and wounded a third last year. The violence took place during a protest against the police shooting of a Black man named Jacob Blake. The case also brought pain, and highlighted deep divisions in our country.

Regardless of where we stand on the political spectrum, we can all agree that everyone should be treated with dignity. For too long, communities of color have been treated with suspicion rather than respect.

The District stands firmly against injustice. We are deeply committed to dismantling racism in our organization. Equity and social justice are central to who we are, as reflected in the colleges' updated vision and mission statements and many updated board policies. Please join us in reaffirming our commitment to build an anti-racist culture that recognizes, names and eliminates racism in all of its forms.

The below resources are available to those seeking support:

- **Grossmont College**
 - Mental Health Counseling will host a safe reflection space on Thursday, December 2 at 3:00 p.m. to discuss your thoughts, feelings, and emotions related to recent trials. Zoom ID: 93879407463. The Umoja program continues to have collective conversations with A2MEND, and engages in check-ins with our Black male students during this time.
 - Free mental health appointments are available at the Grossmont College Health and Wellness Center. Please call 619-644-7192 to schedule an appointment or visit the [Health and Wellness center webpage](#). The center also provides an [introduction video](#) on mental health services offered.
- **Cuyamaca College**
 - Personal counseling is available at the Cuyamaca College Health and Wellness Center. Please call 619-660-4200, email cuyamacahealthandwellness@gmail.com or visit in person. More information is also available through the Health and Wellness Center's [Personal Counseling webpage](#).
 - Support groups, including the Men of Color Support Group, are available at Cuyamaca College. The Men of Color Support Group meets on Fridays from 1:30-3:00 p.m. in the Cross Cultural Center. More information is available through Cuyamaca's Personal Counseling [webpage](#).

In Solidarity,

Lynn Ceresino Neault, Ed.D., Chancellor, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District

Julianna Barnes, Ed.D., President, Cuyamaca College

Denise Whisenhunt, J.D., President, Grossmont College