



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

IUPUI

IUPUI SCHOOL OF EDUCATION STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF ANTIRACIST EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

On September 22, 2020, the current President issued an Executive Order to all federal contractors and their subcontractors, federal agencies, certain federal grant recipients, and the military to halt all trainings on race or sex stereotyping and race or sex scapegoating, calling these efforts, “un-American propaganda training”. As a School of Education in a public university that prepares teachers, administrators, counselors, other education personnel, and education researchers, we strongly dispute the accuracy of the underlying assumption of this order and oppose the effects of it on federal government sponsored training and employees. This order appears to assume that addressing race and sex, racism and sexism, is based on “anti-American” propaganda. In response, we disagree with this in two ways. First, there is extensive research in education and across the social sciences that documents the existence of substantial racism and intersectional oppressions including sexism in education and in virtually all other U.S. institutions and systems, including law enforcement, the media, health care, employment, banking, and housing, among other areas. And a considerable portion of that research has shown that “critical race theory” or “white privilege” are productive concepts for understanding racism and racial inequities and for building racial equity training. Thus, the President’s Executive Order could be said to abnegate all of that research and its applications. Second, we would adamantly disagree that addressing racism and antiracism is anti-American, and, in response, we would strongly assert that addressing racism and antiracism is the hallmark of U.S. citizenship, public education, social science research, and the research, teaching, and service work of universities in a democracy. In addition, we would recommend that as public educators in a racially and intersectionally-diverse democracy, we have an imperative, a democratic imperative, to address racial inequity in schooling, especially given that research in education and other social sciences has well documented those inequities and their founding in racism. More, as educators, our scholarly inquiries and research on race/racism is valuable as it helps to spotlight more critical examinations of U.S. and world history. This is especially important for current and future generations of young people. Thus, we believe that we have a democratic imperative to do and publish research on racism and racial inequities, along with other forms of oppression; to prepare educators to create educational environments that are free of inequities; and to speak and act publicly to address all forms of oppression. Consequently, we call on all university units and all universities to issue their statements against this Executive Order. We also call on all U.S. citizens to speak up and take action against this and any further federal government effort to hinder or stop the widespread U.S. social movement that is addressing racism and other forms of systemic oppression.

Approved by the Faculty of the School of Education, November 6th, 2020