



# DEPAUW UNIVERSITY

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## Statement

June 26, 2020

The Alumni Association Board of Directors eagerly welcomes DePauw University's 21st President, Dr. Lori S. White, the university's first African American and first woman president in its 183-year-old history. This is a great moment in time for our Alumni to take heed of what it means to truly celebrate and believe in diversity, equity, and inclusion for all by race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, disability, or socioeconomic status.

***As Alumni leadership, we charge all of us to be part of the solution to defeat racism and dismantle systems of oppression.*** The senseless killing of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery--and uncountable Black lives throughout this country's history--has magnified the unjust and brutal treatment of Black people for years and years. Like millions of supporters across the world, we stand united with Black people and demand a more just and fair system. For far too long, this country has turned a blind eye to the painful experiences of [Black, Indigenous, and People of Color](#) (BIPOC). As Alumni, we all can lend our voice and use our power to end systemic and structural racism.

DePauw University is an exceptional institution that provides a strong educational foundation for students to take advantage of the abundant opportunities the world provides. A DePauw education provides the next generation of leaders with the tools to develop concrete solutions to complex problems. Still, DePauw has its own past--a history that did not always embrace or advance diversity. The distinguished history of persistent notable alumni like [Vernon Jordan](#), graduate of 1957, [Percy Julian](#), graduate of 1920, and [Tucker E. Wilson](#), the first Black DePauw graduate in 1888--who prevailed despite the racism they endured while on campus--underscores the lingering nature of prejudice. We have made progress, but there is more work to do so that BIPOC students, faculty, and staff at DePauw feel safe, welcomed and cared for. It is our responsibility to take a stand against racism. Today, we make that commitment.

In the coming months, we will share different ways we can all contribute. In the meantime:

- **GO:** Go and seek knowledge to understand the challenges that have caused the outrage the world is experiencing.
- **GIVE:** Give your time and consider supporting the University's [Inclusive Excellence Campaign](#).
- **HELP:** Help us by [sharing](#) your time, talent and expertise with students through internships at your companies or by [recommending a student](#) to DePauw.
- **CONNECT:** [Connect](#) to our global network of accomplished alumni.

The path to understanding is through education as we elevate the voices of the racially minoritized. We invite your support of DePauw's students, faculty, staff, and alumni. We invite you to be part of the solution as we commit to doing better.

Sincerely,

*The DePauw University Alumni Association Board of Directors*

[www.depauw.edu/alumni/](http://www.depauw.edu/alumni/)