The S.J. and Jesse E. Quinney College of Natural Resources Dean’s Office affirms the message by USU President Noelle Cockett and the University’s “commitment to inclusion and respect in our Aggie family and in those communities we reach every day.” With recent national tragedies, including the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on black and brown lives in our country, the anti-black and anti-brown racism permeating our society is laid bare. We also see the hope and possibilities for a more just and inclusive society.

As we reflect on our own responsibilities to help move towards that goal, the QCNR Dean’s Office commits to explicit efforts over the 2020-2021 academic year to identify and adopt actions to make our College more inclusive of a diverse student body and workforce. We recognize that the many fields of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences remain excessively white, at the same time that environmental racism and inequalities continue to shape linked human and ecological wellbeing, and we acknowledge that we have a responsibility to work for change. As a part of our college commitment to do better, Associate Dean Claudia Radel will lead a group of faculty and students to develop strategic plans to enhance diversity in QCNR’s faculty, staff and students and a culture of inclusiveness in our college community.

We express support for local groups working in support of racial justice and inclusiveness, including the USU Black Student Union: https://www.facebook.com/usublackstudentunion/; Black Lives Matter Utah: https://www.blacklivesmatterutah.com/; Cache Refugee and Immigrant Connection: https://www.cacherefugees.org/

The Department of Environment and Society has also posted a statement regarding their commitment and support to students of all backgrounds.