

WIU Black Faculty & Staff Council: Statement in Support of Black Students at WIU

This year has posed numerous challenges as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing racial unrest provoked by the state-sanctioned violence against Black people. However, these challenges also provide an opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations about increasing equity to ensure that all WIU community members feel welcome and respected. Social responsibility is a core value of WIU. However, the University has struggled to live up to its commitment to equity, social justice, and diversity.

In order for all students to contribute to WIU's mission of preparing them to "lead dynamic and diverse communities," a safe and inclusive learning environment is critical. As members of the WIU Black Faculty and Staff Council (BFSC), we are committed to continuing the work of making WIU an inclusive intellectual community. We call on our colleagues, at all levels, to match our efforts in creating a diverse and welcoming environment for all WIU Black students, faculty, staff and visitors of Western Illinois University and members of the Macomb community.

To Black undergraduate and graduate students at Western Illinois University:
the Black Faculty and Staff Council sees you and hears you. We stand in solidarity with you.

We are actively engaged in conversations about how we can address your concerns so that you can focus on the reason why you came to WIU: to be students.

We want you to enjoy your Leatherneck experience.

To our colleagues and community members, we hope you will roll up your sleeves and join us in making WIU and Macomb feel like the home we know it is and also should be for our Black students.

<http://www.wiu.edu/diversity/bfsc>