



June 26, 2020

To Gallaudet University Board of Trustees:

California Association of the Deaf (CAD) is joining the National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) in their call to address the systemic racism at Gallaudet University. CAD supports the NBDA's open letter to the Gallaudet University Board of Trustees. Their letter asks Gallaudet University to acknowledge the need to fight the systemic racism that is prevalent in employment, education, and leadership throughout the United States.

Gallaudet University plays a huge and vital role in the state of California. Not only are many leaders and educators products of Gallaudet University, but many of our Black Indigenous People of Color are potential students. As an organization and as a Deaf community, we need to take responsibility to dismantle systemic racism and injustice at Gallaudet University and elsewhere.

The California Association of the Deaf (CAD) is a membership-based non-profit organization, whose mission is to preserve, protect and promote language, humans, and civil rights for Deaf Californians including DeafBlind, DeafPlus, DeafDisabled, Hard of Hearing and Late-Deafened people throughout the state of California.

CAD has been working on various initiatives to promote intentional focus to bring about additional understanding, transparency, and support to our members and our deaf communities throughout California. Unfortunately, it is not enough. This is the reason CAD stands with NBDA toward dismantling systemic racism at Gallaudet University.

Martin Luther King said, "There comes a time when silence is betrayal." Let us all not be silent.

In solidarity with NBDA,

Kavita Pipalia
Jermaine Cornish
Deanne Bray
Dodi Ellis
Abigail Longo
Charity Acosta
Darci Lassard
Mingchen Yang
Julie Rems-Smario

https://www.nbda.org/EE/files/NBDA_Open_Letter_to_Gallaudet_University_Board_of_Trustees_-_June_2020.pdf

CC: Insidore Niyongabo, NBDA President

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www.CAD1906.org