

To the Department of Nutrition community:

Over the summer, the Department's Diversity and Inclusion Committee worked to expand and deepen its focus to act on the department's commitment to work with renewed energy towards anti-racism and equity in all that we do. This work is ever more critical, as we once again have seen the awful tragedy of the violent shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man, by a police officer in Kenosha, Wisconsin that has been followed by even more violence and death. The D&I Steering committee is led by Drs Kim Truesdale (chair) and Dianne Ward (co-chair), and is charged to refine and advance a strategic action plan, including implementation and evaluation, designed to synergize with the Gillings School D&I work. The Steering Committee is comprised of the leads from each of five working groups (listed below), and representatives from the NutrCollective and the Minority Student Caucus. Administrative support is provided by the department to ensure capacity for real accomplishment. The five working groups engage faculty, student and staff to address these topics:

Diversity - Identify and recommend strategies to recruit diverse students, faculty and staff

Communication - Develop and monitor implementation of web and other communications about department equity work

Training - Develop and monitor plans to ensure ongoing equity and anti-racism training for students, faculty and staff

Curriculum - Develop and monitor plan to audit curriculum to increase equity focus in all courses

Advocacy and Climate - Develop and monitor plan to improve department climate and advocate for students

Stay tuned for more detail to come from the D&I committee. We look forward to a year of action and accountability to make real progress.

Sincerely yours,

Beth Mayer-Davis PhD, Chair

Melinda Beck, PhD, Associate Chair for Academics

Raz Shaikh, PhD, Associate Chair for Research

Kimberly Truesdale, PhD, Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair

Dianne Ward, EdD, Diversity and Inclusion Committee Co-Chair