



Dear Nutrition Students, Faculty and Staff,

In the face of yet another horrible act in which 8 people were killed by gun violence in Atlanta, 6 of whom were women of Asian descent, as a department we wish to declare our ongoing commitment to change the way we approach our work as a community, to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion, ensuring a welcoming environment in which all are respected and valued. The Department of Health Behavior has spoken out strongly – their statement is [here](#), with which we agree and which was supported by the recent statement from Dean Rimer.

The reason for the delay in our note to you is that I (Beth) was aware that the university faculty as a whole was likely to pass a resolution, which just happened moments ago in our Faculty Council meeting:

Resolution 2021-3. On Supporting UNC Chapel Hill's Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander Community.

Resolution passed Friday March 19, 2021.

The General Faculty resolves:

As scholars committed to the common welfare of our campus community, we support and affirm our Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander students and colleagues, both faculty and staff, at a time when these groups are being targeted by violent acts and hateful rhetoric. We denounce such words and actions wherever and whenever they occur.

With these words, know that there is real support, real commitment to action, in our department and in our institution as a whole to create a better, far more equitable world. Please engage with us, support one another, and be in touch for support if needed.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Mayer-Davis, PhD
Cary C Boshamer Distinguished Professor of Nutrition and Medicine
Chair, Department of Nutrition

Melinda Beck, PhD
Professor of Nutrition
Associate Chair for Academics, Department of Nutrition

Raz Shaikh, PhD
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Kimberly Truesdale, PhD
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Chair, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

Dianne Ward, PhD
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Co-Chair, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee