

Carleton

COMPUTER SCIENCE

To our students:

Like so many others, we are reeling this week--from the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade at the hands of police officers; from the brutal attacks by police against peaceful protesters here in Minnesota and around the country; and from the way the longstanding grief and frustration of the Black community has been met yet again with violence from the very institutions ostensibly charged with their protection. Our hearts go out to each of you who has been affected by these atrocities.

We, the Carleton Computer Science department, stand in solidarity with black students at Carleton against systemic racism.

As computer scientists, we struggle with the roles that algorithms and software have played in maintaining racial oppression. Companies use résumé-filtration algorithms that favor white job applicants, police use flawed facial recognition technologies that misidentify people of color as suspects, and courts use sentencing algorithms that recommend longer prison terms for black people than for white people convicted of the same crimes.

And yet, people also use technology to pursue freedom and justice. From encrypted communications that help people organize in the face of state surveillance, to livestreams that broadcast events from the ground, to the use of social network software to keep attention on issues, we see computing helping to create positive social change.

As your professors, we want our classes to engage with technology's potential for both social good and social harm, so we can learn together how to use our knowledge to support human life, liberty, and dignity. We hope to do this while working with you to build a community that includes all your voices in reflection and collaboration. We derive hope from knowing that you, our amazing students, will go out into the world to define what computation means for society in the future.

In the meantime, we want to support and empower you however we are able. If you are hurting and unable to do your work, or if you are worried about a friend, or if you see us making mistakes, or if you have a great idea that could use some support, please talk to us. We will do what we can to help.

Sincerely,

Eric Alexander
Aaron Bauer
Amy Csizmar Dalal
Josh Davis
David Liben-Nowell
Dave Musicant
Sneha Narayan
Layla Oesper
Jeff Ondich
Anna Rafferty
Paula Stowe
Mike Tie



Carleton

Here are some of the resources available to you at Carleton if you need support:

- The [Carleton Black Student Alliance \(BSA\)](#) is a student organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of Black students at Carleton.
- Members of [the Africana Studies department](#) encourage students to grapple with how systems at many scales support global white supremacy.
- [Carleton's Office of Intercultural and International Life \(OILL\)](#) provides resources and programs on issues of equity, inclusion, diversity, and self-advocacy.
- Carleton [Student Health and Counseling \(SHAC\)](#) is available for online telehealth visits and has links to other mental health resources.
- Carleton has [funding sources](#) for students experiencing emergencies, from technology issues to food insecurity to unsafe home environments.
- Carleton's [Statement of Non-Discrimination](#)

We've also compiled a list of organizations working on racial justice, police reform, and providing resources to communities affected by the protests. Some are based in Minnesota, and some do work nationally. This list is far from exhaustive, but just represents organizations to which faculty members have made or plan to make personal donations. Each member of the CS faculty has recently donated funds to one or more of these organizations. We invite you to join us in donating if you're able to do so.

- [Reclaim the Block](#)
- [Black Visions Collective](#)
- [We Love Lake Street](#)
- [Campaign Zero](#)
- [ACLU](#)
- [Southern Poverty Law Center](#)

