Goldwater Scholars unite against racism

As a group of current and future leaders in STEM, our visions and hopes are for a more inclusive community that values diversity within and beyond academia.
In solidarity with Black Lives Matter #STEMforBLM

Individual views expressed here are not officially endorsed by Goldwater Scholarship Foundation

#STEMforBLM

OPEN LETTER & CALL TO ACTION
for STEM COMMUNITIES

from a GROUP OF GOLDWATER SCHOLARS

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*** *Content warning: racism, death, police brutality, exploitative medical experimentation*

OPEN LETTER & CALL TO ACTION for STEM COMMUNITIES
from a GROUP OF GOLDWATER SCHOLARS

June 3, 2020

To all Black communities grieving the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and the countless other victims of longstanding police brutality, racism-based violence, and systemic racism in our society: **we are in solidarity with you**.

We write today as a group of Goldwater Scholars[1], part of a community of nationally recognized current and future leaders in STEM. Though we do not represent the Goldwater Scholarship Foundation or the entire Goldwater Scholar Community[2], we believe it is imperative as Scholars, scientists, and global citizens to commit to supporting the Black Lives Matter movement, Black communities, and racial justice organizations. We are pushing for a world that actively upholds diversity, equity, inclusivity, and justice both within and beyond academia and industry. We call upon all STEM communities to join us.

It is crucial that we are not silent. We cannot be complicit. STEM communities must recognize that our institutions are not free from systemic racism, and that many were built upon the exploitation of Black individuals. Certain fields have upheld racist frameworks. This history continues to permeate STEM disciplines and industries, individuals within them, and STEM advancements. Throughout U.S. history, Black people have been ostracized by academic institutions and exploited for research purposes. Some examples include: the Tuskegee medical experiments, conducted without informed consent on Black patients by the U.S. Public Health Service [1]; the unethical derivation and dissemination of "HeLa" cells (the oldest researched permanent human cell line) from Henrietta Lacks, a Black woman, without her consent or her compensation [2]; the medical [3], housing [4], financial [4] [5], and policing algorithms [6] that perpetuate systematic bias against racial and ethnic minorities; the exclusion of Black people in well-known psychological research paradigms [7]; the underrepresentation of Black persons in genetic research [8]; and the disparate COVID-19 infections and deaths that occur in Black communities, whose health is further threatened and targeted by disproportionate police violence (especially tear gas and mace) [9]. **There are countless other instances of anti-Blackness**.

Further, Black Americans have been drastically underrepresented in almost all STEM fields [10]. These people, for example Black employees in the tech industry (making up 1-2% of the workforce in several major companies [5]) and Black mathematicians (making up fewer than 1% of mathematics PhDs [11]), are subject to extensive prejudice and persistent discouragement [12] [13]. However, Black scientists, from biologist Ernest Everett Just to mathematician Katherine

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[1] If you are a part of the Goldwater community and want to be involved in future diversity initiatives or want to be a letter signatory, email us at STEMforBLM@gmail.com.

[2] The views expressed here are only of the individuals signing this document, and not of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, its funding sources, the Goldwater Scholar Community, or Goldwater Scholars/Honorable Mentions as a whole.

Johnson, have made profound impacts despite these adversities. By acknowledging their critical contributions to society, we remind ourselves of the unwavering support and recognition we owe Black communities.

Despite initiatives to combat racism in STEM, we are far from racial equality and equity. We are committed to:

- Creating mentorship programs to actively recruit and support Black researchers in applying for prestigious scholarships, including the Barry Goldwater Scholarship
- Reaching out to students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and encouraging them to apply to national scholarship competitions, including but not limited to the Barry Goldwater Scholarship
- Actively identifying Black authors on LinkedIn, Google Scholar, ResearchGate, and Academia.edu, and highlighting their work in journal clubs, literature reviews, and academic conversations
- Inviting Black speakers to—and fairly compensating them for—conferences as well as campus and company speaking engagements
- Nominating Black individuals for STEM excellence awards beyond channels specifically designed for diversity
- Purposely joining labs, companies, and organizations with leaders who actively recruit equally representative workforces
- Using leadership platforms within academia, industry, and beyond to amplify Black voices and work
- Refusing racist applications of work and research
- Writing and executing impact statements for research grants (including those funded by the NSF and NIH) that effectively center on Black students and other students of color
- Prioritizing the impacts of research by working to thoroughly engage affected communities at every stage of the scientific process, including in field work and psychology research
- Joining boards of organizations to push forward diversity policies
- Seeking out STEM communication platforms (e.g., STEM Twitter) that promote current and historically overlooked Black scientists
- Building upon these ideas and initiatives to further dismantle racist policies and practices against all minorities in STEM

We demand engagement from all academic, corporate, and related STEM communities in committing to advocacy and action by first:

1. Signing the Call to Action and/or donating (suggested organizations listed below). Using **this link** to sign and/or report donations for updating the total impact of supporters.[3]
2. Expanding the reach of this message using the social media hashtag: #STEMforBLM. We encourage sharing resources aligned with this mission, sharing our #STEMforBLM **infographics**, and uplifting Black voices with the hashtag.
3. Instituting the aforementioned and other **suggested actions** in your own STEM community

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[3] The form is for reporting amounts donated, not for direct donation.

Our hope for this campaign is to dismantle barriers to advocacy and engagement in anti-racism initiatives within professional spheres. We understand financial contributions may not be possible for all; however, we urge everyone to actively educate themselves (our compiled **list** is a start), to listen to and amplify the voices of Black communities, and to engage in challenging conversations about racial justice within your own communities—STEM-related and beyond.

Let us commit to the ongoing work of addressing deep-rooted anti-Blackness in our communities. As scientists, innovators, engineers, and problem-solvers, we have the skills, platforms, and obligations to promote truth and inclusion in our daily work. We must continually strive to **actively** build an equal, equitable, and diverse future.

Thank you for reading our message. Please reach out to us at STEMforBLM@gmail.com.

We are #STEMforBLM.

In solidarity,

(Goldwater Scholar Name, Year of Award)

Alexanria Adigun, 2020
Vaibhavi Shah, 2020
Lillian Fornof, 2019
Christine Smothers, 2019
Bhavish Dinakar, 2019
Naomi Murray, 2020
Gwen Kirschke, 2019
Tyler Nguyen, 2019
Grace Sommers, 2019
Kristian Gubsch, 2019
Nora J. Gilliam, 2020
Anna Argento, 2019
Matt Schoenbauer, 2018
Olumide Fagboyegun, 2020
Michael Chirgwin, 2019
Jasmine Stone, 2019
Angela Smith, 2020
Tanvi Banota, 2020
Kelly Cantwell, 2017
Ryan McMillan, 2019
Elizabeth Yunerman, 2020
Thomas Porter, 2019
Megan Mitchem, 2019
Shellaina Gordon, 2020
Kevin Haworth, 2001
Gary Hoppenworth, 2020

Veronica Hsu, 2020
Megan Yamoah, 2019
Christopher R Keefe, 2019
Jill Jones, 2019
Angela Jones, 2019
Steven Fried, 2019
Brieann Sobieski, 2019
Anis Barmada, 2019
Ally Kim, 2020
Arie Van Wieren, 2020
Connor Tou, 2019
Zoe Screwvala, 2020
Josh Anadu, 2020
Isaac Martin, 2020
Amar Bhardwaj, 2019
Elizabeth Sumiec, 2020
Rachel Bass, 2018
Karen Osei-Boamah, 2020
Hannah Zang, 2020
Vienna Canright, 2020
Liz Enyenihi, 2019
Mikaela Seemann, 2020
Stephanie Desrochers, 2017
Alyssa Rivera, 2019
Wyndom Chace, 2020
Laurel White, 2020

Shannon Sartain, 2020
Lucas Attia, 2020
Anna Poslednik, 2020
Ariel Gale, 2019
Kevin Tao, 2020
Estelle in 't Zandt, 2020
Kevin Ortiz Ceballos, 2020
Brandon Roy, 2019
Annie Liang, 2020
Celina Ceballos, 2020
Kunal Shroff, 2019
John Lu, 2017
Keller Blackwell, 2019
Griffin Glenn, 2018
Cody Martin, 2020
Meg Dillingham, 2019
Harim Won, 2017
Nina Singh, 2018
Aaron Sandoval, 2018
Lucas Attia, 2020
Shiv Sethi, 2020
Maria Straight, 2020
Lily Xu, 2019
Natalie Allen, 2019
Tristan Yates, 2017
William Fahy, 2019
Angelica Lang, 2020
Caeley Pittman, 2019

Alexandra Adams, 2020
Guinevere Oliver, 2019
Brandon Barker, 18
Michael R. Schwob, 2019
Bella Archibald, 2020
Simon Couch, 2020
Vaishnavi Phadnis, 2020
Kelly Finke, 2019
Julie Nguyen, 2019
Claire Williams, 2019
Azim Dharani, 2019
Sam Nutt, 2019
Kayla Sansevere, 2019
Rishi Mehta, 2020
Hailee Sorensen, 2020
Celina Ceballos, 2020
Nicholas Koenig, 2019
Daniele Moro, 2018
Eleanor Stewart-Jones, 2019
Emily Neds, 2018
Mason Scher, 2019
Jordan Cox, 2020
Anne Lyons, 2019
Dev Dabke, 2017
Zoe Kearney, 2019
Spencer Thompson, 2019
Vennela Mannava, 2020

Katherine Sanders, 2019
Hannah Giannini, 2020
Daniel Poston, 2015
Rishi Shridharan, 2019
Stephen Quiton, 2020
Julianne Rolf, 2015
Jessika, 2020
Abhishek Shah, 2020
Sean Devey, 2017
Daniel Lesman, 2020
Alisa Levin, 2020
Kyle DeBry, 2018
Jessica Roberts, 2020
Leena Mathur, 2020

Thomas Propson, 2020
Emma Kaeli, 2015
Edena Khoshaba, 2020
Mikayla Feldbauer, 2019
Joe Wiedemann, 2020
Isaac Gorres, 2020
Benjamin Moran, 2017
Ellen Qian, 2019
Daniel Oh, 2020
Rohin Maganti, 2020
Anna Brogan, 2019
Kathy Liu, 2020
Atte Kadoma, 2019
Katie Driscoll, 2020

Tanveer Karim, 2016
Hayley LeBlanc, 2019
Mark De Los Santos, 2019
Wendy Billings, 2020
Mariah Dicksen, 2019
Emily Silich, 2020
Zachary Thomas, 2020
Max Daniels, 2020
Yana Astter, 2020

Scott Garner, 2017
Jacob Springer, 2020
Sambuddha
Chattopadhyay, 2020
Megan Masterson, 2018
Nikhil Milind, 2019
Melissa Jay, 2015
Sawyer Cawthern, 2019
Cole Replogle, 2019
Clare Singer, 2017
Mark De Los Santos, 2019

#STEMforBLM SUPPORTERS & DONORS

(Instructions for participating are below OR use the submission form: **form link**.)

Updated: **6/4/2020 23:26:44**

Organizations donated to:

Pimento Relief Fund ••• Minnesota Freedom Fund ••• The Liberty Fund ••• Chicago ••• Community Bond Fund ••• Anti-Repression Committee Bail Fund ••• Reclaim the Block ••• Development Fund for Black Students in Science and Technology ••• MOODI ••• Black Visions Collective ••• The Movement for Black Lives ••• NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund ••• Campaign Zero ••• Communities Against Police Brutality ••• Chicago Community Bond Fund ••• Texas Bail Fund ••• Community Justice Exchange ••• Louisville Community Bail Fund ••• Brooklyn Community Bail Fund ••• George Floyd Memorial Fund ••• Columbus Freedom Fund ••• Connecticut Bail Fund ••• People's City Council Freedom Fund ••• Black Lives Matter ••• Jimmy Morris Free Legal Work for Protestors ••• Reclaim the Block Boston ••• We The Protestors ••• Atlanta Solidarity Fund ••• Black Lives Matter of Greater Atlanta ••• National Society of Black Physicists ••• Northwest Community Bail Fund ••• Black Lives Matter Seattle ••• Black Lives Matter Global Fund ••• Black Girls Code ••• Tuscon Second Chance Community Bail Fund ••• National Medical Association ••• ActBlue ••• We Love Lake Street ••• Faith in Texas Bail Fund ••• Justice for Breonna Taylor GoFundMe ••• Nebraska Left Coalition ••• Development Fund for Black Students in Science and Technology ••• Loveland Foundation ••• The Bail Project ••• Detroit Justice Center Bail Project ••• Black Lives Matter Washington D.C. Chapter ••• Cincinnati Bail Fund ••• PDX Protest Bail Fund ••• Many more!

Public Supporter Signers:

Graduate Student, Stanford University • Student, UCSB • student, Wellesley College • Student • Student, Columbia University • Student • Student • Quantitative Researcher, Proof Trading • Graduate Student, Boston University • Student • Student • Student • student, Howard University • Graduate Student, Goldwater Scholar (2017) and Astronaut Scholar (2017) • Engineer, Astronaut Scholar 2020 • Student, George Mason University • Student • Graduate Student, Tufts University • Student • student • Student, Lyon College • Student, Astronaut Scholar • PhD Student, Ms. • Graduate Student, University of Michigan • Software Developer • Student, Graduate Student, Massachusetts Institute of Technology • Student, Oklahoma State University • Student, CSUMB • Student, University of Arizona • Student • Graduate Student • Student • Faculty and PI, University of Cincinnati • Student • Graduate Student Researcher, Astronaut Scholarship Foundation • Student • Student • Student • Graduate Student, CU Boulder • Student, Northeastern University • Student • Student • Graduate Student, Stanford University • Undergraduate student, University of South Carolina • Student • Graduate Student • Student, Northern Arizona University • Student, University of Kansas • PhD student, Stanford University • Student, Agnes Scott College • Graduate Student, 2019 Goldwater Scholar • Student, University of Maryland, College Park • Graduate Student, Stanford University • Graduate Student, University of Iowa • PhD Candidate, Harvard University • Student, Yale University • Student • Student, Trinity College • Student, Stanford University • PhD Student, MIT • Graduate Student • Graduate Student • Graduate Student • Student • Student • Undergrad, MIT • Student • Graduate student, University of Delaware • Student, Stanford University • MD/PhD Student, UCSF • lab manager, Ohio State University • Graduate student, Stanfors University • Student, Stanford • lab manager, Ohio State University • Student • Student, Churchill Scholar • Student, Goldwater Scholar • Former student, The University of Texas • Student, Stanford • Professor, Duke University • Student • Student • student • Student, Stanford University '20 • Researcher • Incoming PhD student, Stanford

Total Donated:

$5,993.13

SUPPORTER SIGNING & DONATION CAMPAIGN

INSTRUCTIONS:
1. Submit your name as a supporter and/or donation to this form: **form link**
   a. For donations, we are not collecting any money and are only reporting a total amount donated from supporters. We ask you to donate to one of the organizations listed below OR choose your own organization fighting for racial equality and justice. No individual donation amounts will be displayed.
   b. You have the option to either sign OR donate OR both.
2. Share widely
3. Engage further (see **cited sources** and more on the **resources list**)

LIST OF SUGGESTED ORGANIZATIONS FOR DONATIONS:
- Bail funds in your local areas. A list of some funds by state, and a list of protest bail funds. More information:
  - National Bail Fund Network: over 60 community bail and bond funds across the country that are "freeing people by paying bail/bond and are also fighting to abolish the money bail system and pretrial detention," and is "currently limited to community bail funds that are regularly paying bail/bond within the criminal legal or immigration detention systems for community members as their central action." They also provide a comprehensive list of bail funds for protestors here.
  - Split a donation between up to 70+ bail funds at once: Administered by ActBlue Charities, the central online hub that processes money for Democratic candidates and causes.
- Black Visions Collective is dedicated to Black liberation. Black Visions Collective "is committed to a long term vision in which ALL Black lives not only matter, but are able to thrive."
- Mobile Outreach and Outdoor Drop-In (MOODI) is a project of the cultural wellness center providing care to unhoused persons, which is especially critical now.
- National Police Accountability Project is a nonprofit dedicated to promoting accountability of law enforcement officers and their employers.
- North Star Health Collective (currently overwhelmed with funds, but has a longer list of donation sites)
- Pimento Relief Fund is providing "black business without insurance relief after white supremacists set them on fire during the protests."
- Reclaim the Block is working to defund the police. "Reclaim the Block is calling on our city to invest in violence prevention, housing, resources for youth, emergency mental health response teams, and solutions to the opioid crisis - not more police. We have no option but to start now."

- [The NAACP's Legal Defense and Educational Fund](#) is a nonprofit "legal organization fighting for racial justice. Through litigation, advocacy, and public education, LDF seeks structural changes to expand democracy, eliminate disparities, and achieve racial justice in a society that fulfills the promise of equality for all Americans."
- [The NAACP's Empowerment Program](#) "engages primarily in training, education, and advocacy at the national and local levels."
- [Wealth Redistribution to Black-Centered Groups](#): provides "a non-exhaustive list of organizations/associations/collectives/etc. that center Black people," with links to donation pages and organization websites.
- [The Movement for Black Lives](#) is "a space for Black organizations across the country to debate and discuss the current political conditions, develop shared assessments of what political interventions were necessary in order to achieve key policy, cultural and political wins, convene organizational leadership in order to debate and co-create a shared movement wide strategy." Donate [here](#).
- [Campaign Zero](#) leads "analysis of policing practices across the country, research to identify effective solutions to end police violence, technical assistance to organizers leading police accountability campaigns and the development of model legislation and advocacy to end police violence nationwide." Donate [here](#).
- [Communities Against Police Brutality](#) leads advocacy against police brutality through offering immediate assistance and crisis team support (among other services) for those dealing with the effects of police brutality, and organizing political, legal, and community education programs.

STEM-SPECIFIC, MOSTLY YOUTH-FOCUSED ADVOCACY GROUPS TO DONATE TO:

- [Association of Black Psychologists](#) (https://www.abpsi.org/) "sees its mission and destiny as the liberation of the African Mind, empowerment of the African Character, and enlivenment and illumination of the African Spirit."
- [Association of Black Women Physicians](#) "is an organized network of Black women physicians committed to the improvement of public health and welfare, through the advancement of knowledge concerning women and the community health." The organization "empowers to lead in health and wellness" and "creates and supports numerous community health and wellness events."
- [Black Girls CODE](#) is an organization that "introduces computer coding lessons to young girls from underrepresented communities in programming languages such as Scratch or Ruby on Rails." The group's "ultimate goal is to provide African-American youth with the skills to occupy some of the 1.4 million computing job openings expected to be available in the U.S. by 2020, and to train 1 million girls by 2040."
- [Black Girls Do STEM](#): Women of color often feel isolated in the workforce due to underrepresentation. This underrepresentation may be due to a lack of encouragement to join the STEM workforce. Black Girls Do STEM instills confidence in young girls to pursue careers in STEM and close this representation gap (based in St. Louis, MO).

- [Black Women in Science and Engineering](#) is a networking and professional development group for Black women who hold degrees in STEM, to facilitate connections and shared experiences among members.
- [Development Fund for Black Students in Science and Technology](#) is an endowment fund for African-American students enrolled in scientific or technical fields at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).
- [National Association for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers](#) is an organization "dedicated to assisting black and other minority students and professionals in fully realizing their potential in academic, professional, and entrepreneurial pursuits in chemistry, chemical engineering, and allied fields."
- [National Association of Black Geoscientists](#) is a professional organization that hosts a national conference for minority professionals to "connect, communicate, and network with other minority professionals in the geosciences."
- [National Black Nurses Association](#) "serves as the professional voice for over 200,000 African American registered nurses, licensed vocational/practical nurses, nursing students and retired nurses from the USA, Eastern Caribbean and Africa." It has 115 chapters that "provide countless hours of community-based health care services."
- [National Conference of Black Political Scientists](#) is an annual political science conference "organized to study, enhance, and promote the political aspirations of people of African descent in the United States and throughout the world."
- [National Medical Association](#) "is the collective voice of African American physicians and the leading force for parity and justice in medicine and the elimination of disparities in health."
- [National Society of Black Engineers](#) is a professional organization made "to increase the number of culturally responsible Black Engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community."
- [National Society of Black Physicists](#) "donations will be used to support students (K-12, undergraduate and graduate students) majoring or interested in physics participate in physics and STEM programs."
- [Society of Black American Surgeons](#) is an organization that strives to "improve health, advance science, and foster careers of African American and other underrepresented minority surgeons."
- [STEM is the new BLACK](#) is an organization to introduce and expose minority students from underrepresented communities to STEM opportunities and careers. "Reshaping the culture with intelligence and creativity."
- [Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security](#) is a professional network made "to advance the leadership and professional development of women in color in the fields of international peace, security, and conflict transformation."
- [Women of Color Research Network](#) is an NIH-organized group for researchers "created to provide women of color and supporters of their advancement in the biomedical sciences information about the NIH grants process, advice on career development, and a venue or forum for networking and sharing information."

SOURCES USED IN OPEN LETTER (& FURTHER READING):

For an extensive resource list, see our compiled guide here: #STEMforBLM Resource List

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