

March 25, 2021

Statement of Solidarity with the Asian, Pacific Islander, and Desi American community (APIDA)

The Black Employee Steering Committee (BESC) asserts its solidarity with all marginalized racial and ethnic groups in challenging and working to dismantle systemic racism. Recent violence against people of Asian descent, including the most recent murders of eight people in Atlanta, Georgia, serves as a reminder that the anti-racism framework that drives our work must also be used to contextualize how the recent attacks on the Asian community are connected to a broader history of their exclusion and racial marginalization in the U.S. We advocate for a USF community that is free from violence and discrimination, misogyny, xenophobia, hate crimes, and inflammatory racist rhetoric. At USF, there are a number of resources designed to provide [mental health support](#) for victims of racial attacks and resources to [support education about APIDA communities](#) for all members of the campus community. The [Enlightenment Series](#), which the BESC formed in fall 2020, also serves to cultivate courageous conversations around bias, microaggressions and systemic racism, and we plan to commit ourselves to amplifying the points of intersection between Asian communities, Black communities and all racially minoritized groups. We believe in championing the spirit of “unity” in our community, and remain united in our mission to advance USF’s [Principles of Community](#) in order to cultivate an inclusive and anti-racist community.