



CITY OF INDEPENDENCE • CITY OF MONMOUTH  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 13J • WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

June 9, 2020

Dear community member,

In past weeks, our nation and our communities have been shocked by George Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police. This tragedy was senseless and abhorrent. The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and many others who have lost their lives are evidence of deep social fractures of racism that persist. We must take action to ensure that our communities adhere to the values of respect and inclusion. Any act of racism is an attack on the whole community.

These types of actions are an affront to our values as a nation, state, and community. As community leaders, we state unequivocally that when any one of the communities in our nation experiences acts of hate and racism, we are compelled to come together and reaffirm our commitment to our core values and goals of inclusion, community, diversity and respect.

We are fortunate our organizations, Central School District, City of Independence, City of Monmouth, Western Oregon University, and Rep. Paul Evans, have an outstanding partnership. In the coming weeks, we will be organizing a forum for community leaders, invited by our respective mayors, to join in a dialog to determine appropriate steps to improve relations among our residents. These efforts will be hosted at Western and will allow all of us to be heard. Together, we can establish priorities that will improve our overall climate. As community leaders, it is our goal to ensure everyone is welcome and is provided with an environment that empowers us to thrive.

We come to you now because we know that many of us are having conversations in our homes, at our places of work, and on our campuses. We want to assure you that together we are committed to creating a safer and more inclusive community.

Acts of racism and discrimination have no place here. To be clear, we denounce any form of hate in our communities, nation and the world, and we encourage you to do the same.

As neighbors,

John McArdle  
Mayor  
City of  
Independence

Cecelia "Cec" Koontz  
Mayor  
City of  
Monmouth

Paul Evans  
State  
Representative  
District 20

Jennifer Kubista  
Superintendent  
Central School  
District 13J

Rex Fuller  
President  
Western Oregon  
University