

Date: December 2, 2015  
To: The Westminster College Community  
From: The Associated Students of Westminster  
Subject: Letter of Support



The recent student protests at universities across the country, specifically Mizzou, serve as a reminder of racial inequality in higher education. As an institution of higher learning, we have a responsibility to address it. The Associated Students of Westminster extend support to student activists, faculty, and staff across the country fighting for their right to be recognized on campus.

This message is by no means attempting to ignore or speak for anyone. We stand behind these activists in solidarity. We are listening—we hear you and support you. Westminster is a predominantly white campus with a low enrollment rate of historically underrepresented students. We exist in a very privileged space, which is an all too common trend in academic institutions. We know we are part of the problem. However, by staying silent and complacent, we are ignoring the problems faced by marginalized individuals in our society and on our very own campus. We will not stand by idly. We recognize that to initiate change, we must support these protests and the many movements aimed at creating safe and inclusive spaces for all people.

The Associated Students of Westminster commend the courageous student activists working to end racism and systemic oppression in higher education. Following suit, we call upon our administration to respond and demonstrate that our campus is an inclusive environment for historically underrepresented students, faculty and staff. There are several issues we would like our administration to look closely at. We recognize the lack of racial diversity on our campus and we would like to see a shift in the enrollment and hiring process. We would also like the position of Associate Provost for Diversity and Global Learning, which was removed last year, to be reinstated.

Westminster prides itself on encouraging students to be globally conscious and to exercise both ethical and social responsibility. At this time, we would like to encourage the President and administration to act on the same principles by increasing the enrollment of students and hiring of faculty and staff with more diverse backgrounds. We believe this is essential in not only fulfilling Westminster's mission, but in fulfilling our responsibility as human beings to be supportive, available, and welcoming to all people.

Sincerely,

The Associated Students of Westminster