

Statement from Dr. Brookshield Laurent, Executive Director for the Delta Population Health Institute Chair for the department of Clinical Medicine at NYITCOM at Arkansas State University

In continued dialogues with colleagues, students and community members, we too are grieved and pained by the unjust, inhumane, senseless death of George Floyd. Racism continues to grip our country; it is insidious, it is pervasive, and it is deadly. The national and global outcry has demonstrated that this can no longer be a problem of a minority group of people. It's a problem for every American.

Racism breeds inequities. We see glaring disparities among black Americans in multiple sectors and industries in our community due to historical and present racism and silence fuels the cause of what we are witnessing today.

We are responsible to listen with empathy, participate in thoughtful and difficult dialogues, acknowledge and understand the causes of injustice, accept the responsibility, and make actionable steps toward the elimination of inequity.

As an institution whose main mission is to build a culture of health, we are responsible to bring light to the root cause of issues our communities are facing and create paths forward for every person through policy, environment, and systemic change.

As President Hank Foley of NYIT, the parent institution of the Delta Population Health Institute, expressed in his [statement](#), we echo the commitment to transformative change in our communities. It is then true healing and flourishing can begin.

Brookshield Laurent
Executive Director
Delta Population Health Institute