

From: Official ESU Email

Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Subject: Important Message to Students from Dr. Santiago Solis

Warriors,

As you know, our country, our state and our community are suffering in a time of discord and injustice, after the most recent deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd. Our society is on edge and we, as members of an institution of higher education, must do what is best for our students, ourselves, our campus by remaining calm and doing all we can to abide by our value statement which says: *"We (ESU) are committed to the principles of intellectual integrity, freedom of expression, the fair and equal treatment of all, good citizenship, environmental stewardship, and accountability for our actions and the resources entrusted to us."*

With that in mind, a number of individuals have reported what they consider to be inappropriate messages by students (including new, incoming students) on social media. At ESU, we are committed to social justice, denounce racism and value diversity, inclusion, and social equity, but we also must respect everyone's First Amendment rights to freedom of speech. Although we may not always agree with someone's views or perspectives, they have a constitutional right to express their thoughts, views, and ideas in the manner that they (not necessarily we) deem appropriate. As an institution of higher education, we cannot suppress all hate speech, but we can do all we can as a campus community **to educate students** about the merits of social justice and equality.

If you or anyone in your department receives messages about what someone may consider inappropriate or offensive material, please forward them to me (ssolis@esu.edu) and Cornelia Sewell (csewell@esu.edu) so we can investigate the concern and message appropriately in accordance with the University's values and also with careful guidance from our Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Dr. Santiago Solis

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Black Lives Matter!

Vice President, Campus Life & Inclusive Excellence

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