

Domestic terrorists stormed the United States Capitol last week as a direct result of ongoing and escalating incitement of violence by President Trump. January 6, 2021 will forever be known as a despondent day in American history.

What happened last Wednesday is antithetical to democracy. However, what happened last week is not shocking. What is shocking is how long it has taken so many to see, acknowledge, and understand the brutality, bigotry, and callousness of white supremacy and white privilege. For too long, Black, Brown and Indigenous communities have tirelessly repeated, this *is* our country. Yet, their voices and actions of protesting for equality continue to reverberate in silent hearts and empty minds unwilling to recognize the repeated marginalization by the country that they love.

In the coming days and weeks, our communities will share messages with tremendous emotion, likely including a combination of outrage, anger, sadness, fear, horror, grief, and eventually, hope. As we continue to process these turbulent times, we ask that you all (much like how we ask the same of our students) to do some self-reflection. We ask you to consider the following:

- How is the type of behavior we are observing in the news also being perpetuated in our offices? Our campuses? Our communities?
- What action can you commit to, personally and professionally, as a result of what is happening in this country?

Thank you in advance for your participation and reflections. We look forward to seeing many of you at the conference. In the meantime, we wish you and your loved ones continued safety and health.