



We Will Talk About Race  
June 16, 2020

The movement for rights and humanity for Black Americans has to be the work of every American.

With the unveiling of recurring unconscionable attacks amidst a pandemic that has disproportionately impacted Black communities, we again see the systemic racism and inequities of our American society. We acknowledge the sadness of every loss, the weight of the hopelessness, and the anger that is felt as everyday acts sustain privilege by race and class. We stand with our Black communities, organizations and individuals who will take action to fight all forms of racism, oppression and privilege that have sustained discriminatory systems.

EnCorps STEM Teachers serves students in low income communities and since our inception, we hold ourselves responsible for equity in education and have partnered for progress. Each year EnCorps' tutors, guest teachers and full-time teachers impact 35,000 California students annually, the majority of whom are children of color, living in poverty. We have worked earnestly to recruit, prepare and support a diverse and talented population of committed STEM professionals for teaching with the specific goal of providing a high quality education to close achievement gaps for these students. We believe in the power of math and science education to propel them forward in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Since the inception of EnCorps, we have worked on advancing educational equity, and in this saddest of times, we renew our commitment. Beginning at our June 2020 Summer Institute:

- We will continue to serve those in our community who are directly impacted by oppressive systems.
- Within our team, we will continue to learn and grow our capacity within EnCorps to work toward educational equity and a world where ALL students, regardless of socioeconomic status, have a strong foundation to help them navigate an increasingly complex world.
- For our STEM Fellows, we will continue to create learning opportunities that challenge assumptions and push our educators to transform practices and policies that better serve students in the communities that we serve.

And finally, as educators, we will talk about race. As Jamilah Pitts, educational consultant and equity and justice strategist has said "We may be uncomfortable talking about race, but we can no longer afford to be silent. We have chosen a profession that - like parenting - requires us to put our comforts second to those of children."