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## From the President: Now We Must

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# Now We Must

**W**e are DePaul, with a mission deeply rooted in the spirit and life of St. Vincent de Paul. We make a conscious choice to serve the public good and give people of all backgrounds the opportunity to reach their full potential. We respect the sacred dignity of all people. We nurture a welcoming, inclusive community. This is what it means to be a Catholic, Vincentian university.

Now we must remain grounded in mission.

As we continue to adapt to life amid a pandemic, political unrest and the outcry for social justice, we reaffirm our commitment to address inequities within our society. We stand strong against racism, hate and the violence it engenders.

In the wake of the murder of George Floyd and the social unrest that followed over the spring and summer, we listened to the concerns of the entire university community. DePaul's senior leadership shared a message of solidarity, publicly committing to multiple actions that will make our university more equitable and just. We continued to listen with compassion and kindness.

Now we must put an end to systemic racism.

This academic year, we will engage in regular discussions on campus to examine the policies and procedures we have in place that may perpetuate institutional racism. For example, is there a policy that unknowingly propagates exclusion?

Other actions include providing antiracism training for our university community. We're encouraging colleges and schools to host antiracist conversations. We're collaborating with local organizations, such as Sinai Health System, to help address inequities in our society. We will expand our work with the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program to enhance educational opportunities for the incarcerated.

We created a scholarship program in remembrance of all Black lives taken by acts of violence. The Emmett Till Scholarship will be awarded to students with majors and minors in applied diplomacy and African and Black diaspora studies.

We also will prioritize justice and systemic change as we review and potentially revise our mission statement this academic year. DePaul's mission should never be separated from the world outside our campus. As a Catholic, Vin-

centian institution, DePaul intends to be part of the call to inspire change and transformation.

Now we must support our students.

The enduring challenges created by the global pandemic are making it increasingly difficult for DePaul's students to be the change we want to see in the world. In response to the increased needs many students are facing this year, we launched **Now We Must: The Campaign for DePaul's Students**. This ambitious fundraising campaign aims to raise \$60 million this academic year for five areas: scholarships, emergency funds, technology, internships and mental health.

The world needs DePaul graduates more than ever right now. Together, we can ensure every student has the resources needed to reach their full potential. We do all of this in love, respecting the God-given dignity of every person.

Now we must.

A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD  
President