

## Open Letter

As a black woman tasked with creating and directing the first Virtual Explore Engineering Camp for high school students, it has been a hard few weeks. I, along with my diverse team of undergraduate and graduate students strongly denounce racist and hateful language and actions by police, by our institutions, by our families, and by our friends. We believe it is our moral obligation to act now and support and uplift our community.

To do this, we are:

1. Adding discussion forums and workshops for students to learn and grow with topics including
  - a. Understanding privilege
  - b. How engineers contribute to equity and inclusion
  - c. Reacting to criticism or confrontation
  - d. Steps to be anti-racist
  - e. How to help others be anti-racist
  - f. Fostering healing spaces
  - g. Creating Open Forums
2. Offering one-on-one(or two) mentor sessions with every high school student

Additionally, we would like to have a diverse group of high school students in the camp. We recognize that access is often a barrier for marginalized communities. Our camp already offers financial assistance if needed to every and anyone, but EDOC is committing to funding marginalized students, especially black and brown students, to attend the camp should they want to come and not have the means. #blacklivesmatter and you deserve to have access and proudly be #blackinstem.

Please consider joining us and applying. No matter who you are, or what your experience is. You belong, and we'd love to have you. Learn more at <https://edoc.engr.uconn.edu/explore-engineering/> . Please don't hesitate to send any questions or concerns to [engr-explore@uconn.edu](mailto:engr-explore@uconn.edu)

Together, we can and will change ourselves, each other, and the world.

In solidarity and action,  
Stephany  
*Associate Director, Engineering Diversity and Outreach Center  
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