March 8, 2016

OPEN LETTER FROM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES FACULTY

We, as members of the University Libraries faculty at the University of Denver, stand in solidarity with students, staff, and faculties across the nation in opposition to racial discrimination on college campuses. We believe that racially hostile environments are counter-productive to the democratic aims of American higher education. We believe that diversity in student bodies, faculty and staff, and the curriculum are essential to American higher education. In response to the student protests emerging across the United States that call for the recognition that students of color face discrimination and that colleges and universities have an obligation to address such discrimination, we write this letter to say:

We see you.

We hear you.

We commit ourselves to do better by you.

We support an agenda for engaging in dialogue and action about campus racial climate in higher education in general, and at the University of Denver. This agenda includes: 1) cultivating a supportive environment for students of color, in solidarity with efforts to address hostile college racial climates, 2) collaborating with units across campus to support a university-wide conversation about the student uprisings across the country, 3) developing collections and highlighting resources that create a more inclusive environment, 4) inviting various campus and community diversity and social justice groups to submit proposals to exhibit in Anderson Academic Commons, and 5) updating the university community about these efforts, with further assessment planned for future action beyond 2015-2016.

In solidarity,

Jeanne Abrams

Naomi Bishop

Jenny Bowers

Ryan Buller

Kevin Clair

Woody Colahan

Kate Crowe

Erin Elzi

Steve Fisher

Carrie Forbes

Esther Gil

Anna Harper

Peggy Keeran

Michael Levine-Clark

Erin Meyer

Sheila Yeh