Statement on Racism Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Bowling Green State University

October 5, 2020

We, the faculty, clinical instructors, and staff of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Bowling Green State University, join the President, Provost, the Dean of the College of Health and Human Services of BGSU, and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in a commitment to social justice. We stand in solidarity with Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and the Black Lives Matter movement. We acknowledge that centuries of oppression and systemic racism continue to cause BIPOC pain, and that racism causes disparities in access to high quality, appropriate healthcare and educational services (including those provided by speech-language pathologists and audiologists). We acknowledge that speech-language pathologists and audiologists have helped to perpetuate systemic racism, and that our department, courses, and clinics have not always been welcoming of BIPOC students, colleagues, and clients and their caregivers.

Furthermore, we commit to:

- ensuring that we will confront systemic racism in our program and clinic;
- ensuring that our department, courses, and clinic are welcoming of marginalized and minoritized students, colleagues, and clients and their caregivers;
- pursuing ongoing education and personal growth that promotes reflection on our own experiences and perspectives, to better understand how to improve our departmental policies and clinical and teaching practices;
- helping to promote a more socially just approach in our department;
- seeking advice and learning from experts on social justice issues, so that we may better serve our BIPOC students, clients and their caregivers, community, and field.

This will involve our entire faculty, clinical instructors, and staff, as we strive to promote a safe, welcoming, and inclusive department, campus, community, and field.

Submitted on behalf of the department by Department Chair, Kimberly S. Traver