

Dear Members of the Penn State Law and SIA Community,

Today is Juneteenth, the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States. It creates an important opportunity for reflection on our history and ongoing problems of slavery and systemic racism, and for committing to being actively antiracist. The State College NAACP has planned a [Juneteenth celebration](#) at MLK Plaza on Fraser Street at noon that also includes virtual participation options.

To help support that needed reflection and commitment, we have developed important new resources. Professors Tarves and Mattson, in collaboration with the President of BLSA Tyla Swinton, Vice President of BLSA Alexis Thackurdin, and other Black student leaders, have developed a resource guide on [Understanding and Dismantling Racism](#). The guide includes resources on antiracism, Black culture and history, and examining whiteness and privilege. Penn State Universities libraries have also developed [educational resources on systemic racism](#) that I encourage members of our community to access for learning and reflection.

In addition, Dean Purvis and Professor Wadhia for Penn State Law and Dr. Gartner for SIA – with input from student leaders and other members of our community and assistance from Wannida Garborg and other members of our communications team – have developed new diversity, equity, and inclusion webpages for both [Penn State Law](#) and [SIA](#). These include information on resources in our schools and at the university, events, and affinity groups. We will continue to update and build all of these resources over time and welcome feedback.

We encourage all members of our community to participate in reflection and commitment to action, and support supervisors giving their employees time to do this important work today.

Best,  
Hari

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