



SCULPT DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) STATEMENT 2021

As an advisory board, we resolve that the Utah Valley University Scholarly and Creative Works and Undergraduate Learning Partnership Team (SCULPT) leads out against racism and actively supports anti-racism. We situate ourselves and our research to join all people of conscience in the United States of America and around the globe in dismantling white supremacy and violence against people of color. We value people of diverse races, identities, and perspectives, specifically the lives of those who have been systemically oppressed. We decry the violence enacted against the lives of so many innocent people of color, such as George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Philando Castille, Atatiana Jefferson, Aura Rosser, Freddie Gray, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Elijah McClain, Tanisha Anderson, Trayvon Martin, and a host of others.

Simultaneously, we support and cheer on the hope generated through active anti-racism, the importance and power of teaching, research, writing, and scholarly creative works offered us by faculty and students whereby we dismantle the forces of white supremacy and the pseudoscience that props it up, which feeds racism and fuels hatred among fellow human beings. As faculty, we join in raising awareness to exercise our strongest intent to change the consciousness of hate to one of love in our classrooms and on our campus.

We teach the truth of Critical Race Theory as the “three pioneers of critical race theory being [Columbia Law](#) professors Kimberlé Crenshaw, Kendall Thomas and Patricia Williams.” As SCULPT faculty, we afford our students an opportunity to use research in exploring how systems and institutions may allow people to identify and dismantle systemic, hidden racism. Critical Race Theory realized the direct effect of a structurally racist legal system that systemically incarcerated people of color, especially Black people. This theory arose from the 1970s Critical Legal Studies which analyzed the idea that law was just and neutral; simply put, law is anything but just and neutral. This fact conceived the movement of the 1980s led by Harvard Law Professor Derrick Bell which critically explored Critical Race Theory. As SCULPT faculty, we afford our students an opportunity to use research in exploring how systems and institutions may allow people to identify and dismantle systemic, hidden racism.

We resonate with the recent [Department of Justice](#) findings in the Davis County Utah School District (October 2021) and resolve ourselves, as a leader in education against racism. We offer a more fortified resolution to teach against racism, to advocate for effective antiracist teaching tools and continued education for our Utah educators across the state and here at Utah Valley University to stem the tide of racism. Further, we actively stand against racism and commit to involve ourselves in scholarly and creative works that empower us as faculty and students to create safer learning spaces and to foster communication with those who may not agree with us. We commit to these actions towards stemming the tide of white supremacy and promoting diversity, inclusion, and equity across our campus and within our society.

Columbia University. (2021). What is Critical Race Theory and Why is Everyone Talking About It? <https://news.columbia.edu/news/what-critical-race-theory-and-why-everyone-talking-about-it-0>