



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Office of Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion

June 18, 2021

Dear Campus Community,

Happy Juneteenth from the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the [African American and Black Employee Network \(AABEN\)](#). Kwanna King, registrar, Office of the Registrar provides leadership for the AABEN and Tom Burman, director, Intercollegiate Athletics, is the Cabinet Champion for AABEN.

On Friday, June 19, 2020 a group of about a dozen people gathered on the steps of the Wyoming State Capital in Cheyenne to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. This added to the protests and calls being made Summer 2020 in Laramie and nationwide to end systemic racism. These calls continue and it is great to pause and celebrate a positive change such as Juneteenth being added to our calendars as a federally recognized holiday.

The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is encouraged by a day recognized as the symbolic end to the enslavement of Black people in the United States commemorated as a federal holiday. It was a long time coming with this year being the 156th anniversary of Juneteenth. Our thank you to all who supported the advancement of this as a federal holiday and the ongoing work to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice here and globally.

Sincerely,

Emily A. Monago, PhD, MPA

Chief Diversity Officer