

From: Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@domail.maricopa.edu>

Date: Tue, Apr 20, 2021 at 5:28 PM

Subject: A message on the Derek Chauvin verdict

To:



**MARICOPA**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

**OFFICE OF THE INTERIM  
CHANCELLOR**

Chandler-Gilbert | Estrella Mountain | GateWay | Glendale | Mesa  
Paradise Valley | Phoenix | Rio Salado | Scottsdale | South Mountain

Dear Maricopa,

This afternoon, a jury in Minneapolis found Derek Chauvin guilty on all counts for the May 2020 murder of George Floyd. Although this may bring a sense of justice and relief to many in the community, feelings of pain and grief will undoubtedly still persist.

Over the past several months as our nation has witnessed cases of police violence and racial inequity, many have experienced emotional exhaustion, shock, and grief over these traumatic injustices. Although for some, with the verdict, these feelings may subside to a degree, the impact of race-related inequity is still profound, and there is much left to do before we achieve a racially just and equitable society.

As the Maricopa Community Colleges are proud to be a diverse and inclusive community, I understand the pain many in our Black communities have been experiencing and especially deep, and justice being served in this particular case brings us only one small step closer to achieving a collective sense of peace. This verdict is important in the struggle for justice for all People of Color who have suffered trauma and systemic racism in their communities.

To all of the students, staff, and faculty in our Maricopa family: please lean on your support systems if you have been struggling, and know that District resources are available to help you navigate all the feelings related to this challenging time and the results of the trial. Caring for your mental and emotional health is paramount. We have confidential resources available through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). To access EAP resources, you can find more information through the Maricopa Community Colleges Employee Portal [here](#).

The Maricopa Community Colleges are stronger together. Thank you all for the care, compassion, and kindness you show to your colleagues.

Sincerely,

Steven