

Student Leaders at ASU Cronkite Call for the Removal of Incoming Dean

The multicultural student organizations demand Sonya Duhé be removed from her position at the Cronkite School, as allegations of past offensive commentary and action come to light.

(Phoenix - June 6, 2020) On Tuesday, a former Loyola University New Orleans student posted a thread on Twitter revealing anti-black, racist commentary and several acts of microaggressions committed toward her by Duhé, incoming dean of Arizona State University's (ASU) Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication and CEO of Arizona PBS. This thread was supported by many other former students at Loyola. Further investigation by The State Press, ASU's independent student media outlet, found Duhé has a history of making racist, homophobic and bodyshaming comments.

The Cronkite School hosts student chapters of the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA), the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ) and the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA). Student leaders of these organizations believe there is no place within the newsroom, let alone within an institution that is “measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes” and assumes “fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves,” for this type of behavior as stated directly in the university's charter.

The student leaders are demanding ASU retract its current offer of her incoming position as dean of the Cronkite School and from her role as CEO of Arizona PBS. We, the student leaders, stand in solidarity with the Loyola students who have come forward with their stories. We refuse to let minority voices go unheard, especially those of the Black community.

As President Michael Crow stated in a recent email to students:

“Can we find ways in all that we do, including policing, education, and social welfare, to meet the ideals of that Constitution and all that it stands for? The answer is no, unless we are willing to face our failings, call out our injustices, and drive towards the changes needed to achieve the common goals America was built to achieve.”

As student leaders, we ask that ASU faces its failing in the hiring process of Sonya Forte Duhé and drives toward the changes needed by not allowing her to assume her roles come July 1.

For too long and in far too many instances, ASU has taken a passive approach in standing with minority students. Minority students need to know that ASU supports us, and will listen when we speak. We recognize that this statement was written by few, but feel it is reflective of many more, which is why we have sent out a petition to our ASU community. If you agree with the thoughts expressed in this statement, **please sign the petition which can be found in the bio of each of the mentioned multicultural journalism organization's social media platforms.**

Sincerely,

