

FACULTY STATEMENT ON NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY'S CULTURE OF RACISM

We as faculty write in support of the recent student efforts to open dialogue and their demands for accountability and substantive change from the students and administration for the series of racist actions at Northwestern University. In particular we think it is unacceptable that the students Kellyn Lewis, Dallas Wright, and Paul Jackson should continue to be disparaged in the pages of *The Daily Northwestern* simply for having the courage and temerity to expose the latest racist incident on the NU Campus. The April 27 Daily Northwestern editorial seemed more concerned with demonizing these students and rehabilitating the perpetrators of the racist incident than addressing the need to have an open discussion about the lack of diversity on campus. The disparaging of these particular students seems reflective of age-old tropes through which Black males, in particular, are demonized as irrational and volatile, and as part of a grander effort to criminalize and silence astute critiques of power. Whilst we all have benefited from the leadership of those three individuals, it is imperative to note that the movement to address the social climate at NU exceeds their interventions. It derives from a much more diverse student collective that has been established across racial, ethnic, and gender boundaries. This year's movement to address the crisis of diversity at NU, for example, was initiated by a Latina who had reached a threshold of frustration with feeling marginalized and excluded. We are proud to see that many of the students that are part of that collective are using lessons and tools that they have appropriated from courses on race and racism that we offer at this university. That student collective has created a space for a much needed conversation to take place, a conversation that we are invested in legitimating, and that can result in benefits for us all. We concur that these are not isolated events, but signify a problematic culture of racism and symbolic violence at the University that must be addressed. Faculty have been involved for years in various and numerous efforts to diversify the University community and make it welcoming and inclusive to all. That our efforts have not been successful testifies to the depth of the problem. We continue our efforts, and faculty are discussing strategies in light of recent events. Like the many students who have repeatedly raised issues of diversity not only this year but in years past, our goal is to develop a more positive, inclusive, and dynamic Northwestern community. We call on members of the community to stop vilifying those who identify discrimination and racism and start supporting a truly diverse and welcoming Northwestern.

You can see the signatures and sign this petition at:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/northwestern-university-faculty-sign-this-petition#>

Signed By

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Ji-Yeon Yuh	4/28/12	Associate Professor	History
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Richard Iton	4/28/12	Professor	AFAM Studies

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Jaime Dominguez	4/28/12	Academic Advisor	Weinberg Administration
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Shalini Shankar	4/28/12	Associate Professor	Anthropology
Mark Hauser	4/28/12	Assistant Professor	Anthropology
Christopher Kuzawa	4/28/12	Associate Professor	Anthropology
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Betsy Erkkila	4/28/12	Professor	English
Katherine E. Hoffman	4/28/12	Associate Professor	Anthropology
Susannah Gottlieb	4/28/12	Associate Professor	English
Henry Godinez	4/28/12	Associate Professor	School of Comm: Theater
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Tessie P. Liu	4/28/12	Associate Professor	History
Martha Biondi	4/29/12	Associate Professor	AFAM Studies
Kasey Evans	4/29/12	Assistant Professor	English
Helen Schwartzman	4/29/12	Professor	Anthropology
Harvey Young	4/29/12	Associate Professor	School of Comm: Theater
Carolyn Chen	4/30/12	Associate Professor	Sociology
Ana Aparicio	4/30/12	Assistant Professor	Anthropology
Jillana Enteen	4/30/12	Senior Lecturer	Gender Studies
Kate Masur	4/30/12	Associate Professor	History
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E. Patrick Johnson	4/30/12	Professor	School of Comm: Performance St.
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Charles Mills	4/30/12	Professor	Philosophy
Richard Zinbarg	4/30/12	Professor	Psychology
Michelle Wright	4/30/12	Associate Professor	AFAM Studies
Scott Hiley	4/30/12	Assistant Professor	French and Italian
Alexander Weheliye	4/30/12	Associate Professor	English
Miriam Petty	4/30/12	Assistant Professor	School of Comm: RTVF
Sandra Richards	4/28/12	Professor	African American Studies/Theater

Stephanie Teterycz	4/30/12	Director of Summer Session	School of Continuing Studies
Axel mueller	4/30/12	Senior Lecturer	Philosophy
Tracy Vaughn-Manley	4/30/12	Senior Lecturer	African American Studies
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Quincy Stewart	5/1/12	Associate Professor	Sociology
Kate Baldwin	5/1/12	Associate Professor	American Studies
Alessia Ricciardi	5/1/12	Associate Professor	French and Italian
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Mark Wright	5/2/12	Visiting Scholar	School of Comm
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Laura Hein	5/2/12	Professor	History
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Jules Law	5/1/12	Professor	English
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Lauren Slubowski	4/30/12	Student	Graduate School
Jasmine Mahmoud	4/30/12	Student	Graduate School
Lisa Biggs	4/30/12	Student	Graduate School
Christopher Shirley	4/30/12	Student	Graduate School
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Victoria Fortuna	4/30/12	Student	Graduate School
Kati Sweaney	4/30/12	Student	Graduate School
Justin Zullo	4/30/12	Student	Graduate School
Katherine Zien	4/30/12	Student	Graduate School
Colleen Daniher	5/1/12	Student	Graduate School
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Soo Ryon Yoon	5/1/12	Student	Graduate School
Asako Masubuchi	5/1/12	Student	Graduate School
Lauren Fleer	4/30/12	Student	Graduate School
Deep Jariwala	5/1/12	Student	Graduate School
Jennifer Sta.Ana	5/1/12	Student	Graduate School
Bin Xu	5/1/12	Student	Graduate School
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Xinran Guo	5/2/12	Student	Graduate School
Qiao Zhou	5/2/12	Student	Graduate School
Roger Almendarez	5/2/12	Student	Graduate School
Jared Rodriguez	5/3/12	Student	Graduate School
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Beth Corzo-Duchardt	5/3/12	Student	Graduate School
Brian Aguado	5/3/12	Student	Graduate School
Clare Forstie	5/4/12	Student	Graduate School
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Daniel Kwon	4/30/12	Student	Weinberg
Jesus Roman	5/1/12	Student	Weinberg
Noeli Serna	4/30/12	Student	Weinberg
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Ellyn Pena	5/1/12	Student	SESP
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Sarah Logan	5/3/12	Student	Weinberg
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Stephen Rees	5/3/12	Student	Weinberg
Neil Patel	5/3/12	Student	Weinberg
Abby Chu	5/3/12	Student	Weinberg
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Andrew Nelson	5/3/12	Student	SESP
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Alexia Blakley	5/2/12	Alumni	
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Nicky Klingerman	5/1/12	Affiliation Unknown
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Sue Hespos	4/30/12	Affiliation Unknown
Ricardo Sanchez	4/30/12	Affiliation Unknown
Lily Woodruff	4/30/12	Affiliation Unknown
William Borges	4/30/12	Affiliation Unknown
Liza Oliver	5/3/12	Affiliation Unknown
Kyle Langlois	5/2/12	Affiliation Unknown
Alex Sims	5/3/12	Affiliation Unknown
Danielle Cadet	5/2/12	Affiliation Unknown
B Y	5/2/12	Affiliation Unknown