



A Statement from CIS of Southeast Harris and Brazoria County CEO, Donna Montes

June 16, 2020

This statement is offered with the deepest regret and sense of responsibility to address the tension and division in the United States due to the unjust treatment of the black community. I feel as though we need to speak louder and with more conviction in support of the true meaning behind our public statement. Black Lives Matter is a very powerful statement, and more importantly, a social justice movement.

Communities In Schools of Southeast Harris and Brazoria County (CIS) recognizes the impact that the current condition in our Country has on the students, families, our staff, and each community served by our organization. However, it is imperative that we start with the root of the issue and that collectively we take responsibility for the issues at hand. Any void of discussion regarding diversity and our differences goes against the One who created diversity, and his will for us all to live life more abundantly.

As I reflect on the work and commitment of Communities In Schools to students, families, school districts, and communities, I am reminded that the organization, though founded to meet the needs of the most at-risk students, achieves that end by meeting students where they are in the fullness of their differences; be it race, learning challenges, poverty, or social/emotional struggles. CIS creates a climate where all students' differences are embraced, and students are safe to explore their differences and the differences of others.

CIS staff represent and model what love, value, and acceptance of differences should resemble, which what is most needed and most lacking in the United States today. It is our job as servant leaders to stand up for what is right and protect our children from discrimination, racism, and diversity issues. The challenge is, we can only stand up for children in our communities if we are first willing to admit and address our own struggles with diversity issues.

CIS stands behind the belief that all children deserve the opportunity to succeed. We become the voice for our children and families as we have dedicated our lives to serve those in need. Our hearts go out to the family of George Floyd and to all the families that live in fear because of the color of their skin, or their chosen profession.

My prayer is that we come together in collective humility, repentance, and resolve to forgive each other for the ignorance and cruelty inflicted on one another for far too long. Then move in a direction that works to see the good in all of us and know this world is a much better place to live in if we learn to love each other for who we are.

With the utmost love and respect,

Donna Montes, MSW

