

# OHIO ENGINEERING DEANS COUNCIL

T. Michael Toole, University of Toledo, *Chair* ♥ John-David Yoder, Ohio Northern University, *Secretary*

June 16, 2020

We are the Deans of engineering colleges from 16 public and private universities across the State of Ohio. In our colleges, our enrollment now exceeds 42,000 students, taught by more than 1,500 faculty. Our research expenditures are approaching \$450,000,000 each year. On average, nearly 80% of our 6,000 graduating seniors have had a co-op and/or internship experience, and the majority stay and work in Ohio. Together, we provide the intellectual capital to meet the high-end workforce requirements for major engineering/IT intensive industries.

For 20 years, we deans have met regularly to coordinate our teaching and research strategies and, where appropriate, align them with the economic development needs of the State of Ohio.

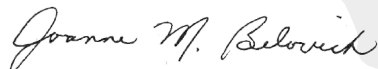
At this time, as leaders in engineering education, we come together to publicly support the recent "Policy Statement by the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) on the Implications of the Death of Mr. George Floyd." This statement is found on the following page.

We are in strong support of ASEE's statement, acknowledging that "circumstances or actions that impede diversity, equity, and inclusion are inimical to good engineering practice." While "historical and systemic inequities in opportunities and preparation to learn" exist, we "seek to ensure equitable access and success in education." We will work with ASEE and each other to do all we can to support all students, faculty, and staff on our campuses.

Sincerely,



T. Michael Toole (Chair)  
University of Toledo



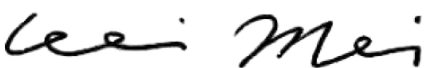
Joanne Belovich (Interim)  
Cleveland State University



Robert Chasnov  
Cedarville University



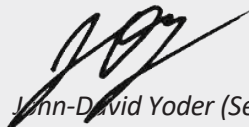
Marek Dollár  
Miami University



Mei Wei  
Ohio University



Eddy Rojas  
University of Dayton



John-David Yoder (Secretary)  
Ohio Northern University



Venkataramanan "Ragu" Balakrishnan  
Case Western Reserve University



Alton Johnson  
Central State University



David Williams  
The Ohio State University



Craig Menzemer (Interim)  
University of Akron



Brian Rigling  
Wright State University



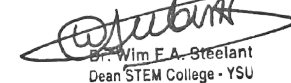
Adedeji Badiru  
Air Force Institute of Technology



Christina Bloebaum  
Kent State University



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University of Cincinnati



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Youngstown State University

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**Norman L. Fortenberry**  
*Executive Director*  
**ASEE**

## **Policy Statement by the American Society for Engineering Education on the Implications of the Death of Mr. George Floyd**

We are the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE). We take each of those words and our collective identity very seriously.

We're American. We recall that this nation was born in rebellion to oppressive tyranny and that no oppressor has ever gladly surrendered his position. We're American. We know that nativism has never been our strength; rather we have embraced the world and taken our strength from all the peoples of the world, including those who were already here.

We are a Society. We are a community of shared interests and purposes. Prominent among our shared interests is diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have spoken out forcefully in this regard time and time again including our February 1, 2017 statement on the US President's executive orders on immigration.

We are Engineers. We understand that diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential to the quality of what engineers produce. It's not a "nice to have"—it is essential. Circumstances or actions that impede diversity, equity, and inclusion are inimical to good engineering practice.

We are Educators. Whether we stand in research labs, classrooms, factory floors, or boardrooms, we seek to enlighten others to what we know and what we are learning. We seek to facilitate opportunities for all to learn to the best of their abilities, and to hold ourselves accountable for the quality of our facilitation. We recognize historical and systemic inequities in opportunities and preparation to learn and seek to ensure equitable access and success in education.

The murder of Mr. George Floyd, like that of so many others before him, was a heinous act. But it was not a singular act, or an isolated act. It was part of a pervasive pattern and practice of learned, ingrained, and automatic behaviors that have and will require persistent, consistent, and resistant action to limit and eventually reverse.

We recognize our limitations, but believe that by working together as ASEE members and in collaboration with others, we can contribute to advancing and sustaining the deep and wide change that will be necessary for this nation to begin to achieve the aspirational words that are the preamble to the US Constitution – . . . forming a more perfect Union, establishing Justice, insuring domestic Tranquility, . . . promoting the general Welfare, and securing the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity . . . “

**Approved by the ASEE Board of Directors on June 2, 2020**