

# OHIO ENGINEERING DEANS COUNCIL

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

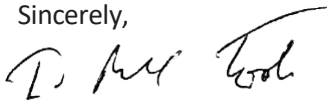
May 19, 2021

As the Deans of engineering colleges at 16 public and private universities across the State of Ohio, and as members of the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) Engineering Deans Council, we echo the unconditional condemnation of the acts of anti-Asian violence articulated in the "Statement by the ASEE Board on Racist Violence Against Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders." Last June, we supported a similar statement articulated by the ASEE Board on the Implications of the death of Mr. George Floyd. Both of these statements are found below. It is unfortunate that we must continue to call out these horrible acts of violence. Alongside the ASEE Board, we support our colleagues dealing with the physical, emotional, and economic impacts of these acts, and we are saddened by the "rising tide of violence" against these groups.

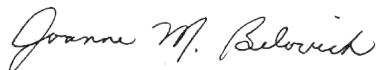
In our colleges, our enrollment exceeds 42,000 students, who are taught by more than 1,500 faculty. Our research expenditures are approaching \$450,000,000 per year. On average, nearly 80% of our 6,000 graduating seniors have had a co-op and/or internship experience, and the majority stay and work in 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 share best practices and coordinate our teaching and research strategies and align them with the economic development needs of the State of Ohio. We also collectively strive to promote and actively pursue diversity, equity, and inclusion on our campuses and throughout our communities. We will continue to work to be sure all members of our communities feel welcome, safe, and valued. It seems we see daily examples across our country of discrimination, hate, and violence against marginalized people. Such behavior has no place in our society.

Sincerely,



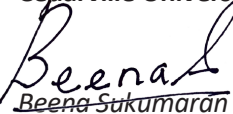
T. Michael Toole (Chair)  
University of Toledo



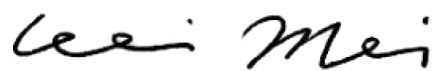
Joanne Belovich (Interim)  
Cleveland State University



Robert Chasnov  
Cedarville University



Beena Sukumaran  
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



Subramania Sritharan (Interim)  
Central State University




Ayanna Howard  
The Ohio State University



Craig Menzemer (Interim)  
University of Akron



Brian Rigling  
Wright State University



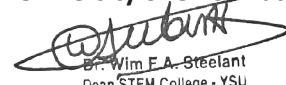
Aadedeji Badiru  
Air Force Institute of Technology



Christina Bloebaum  
Kent State University



John Weidner  
University of Cincinnati



Wim Steelant  
Youngstown State University

## **Statement by the ASEE Board on Racist Violence Against Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders**

**March 29, 2021**

ASEE members and staff are horrified and saddened by the rising tide of violence against Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders—including the recent string of hate crimes committed against elders and the targeted murder of eight people, six of whom were of AAPI descent. The Atlanta spa murders brought to light the misogyny and racism that targets women of AAPI descent. Please know and honor the names of those lost in this violence.

The latest national report, Stop AAPI Hate, documented about 3,800 hate incidents against Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders, with AAPI women representing 68% of reported cases. Among these incidents are verbal harassment, physical assault, and civil rights violations.

We unconditionally condemn acts of anti-Asian violence and harassment; we acknowledge that such acts have many historical precedents and have increased recently in connection with a rise in geopolitical tensions and racist characterizations of the coronavirus pandemic.

We support our Asian, Asian-American, and Pacific Islander colleagues dealing with the physical, emotional, and economic impacts of this harassment. Asian-Americans and Asian immigrants have made and will continue to make important contributions to engineering education and practice, STEM, the U.S. economy, and our culture and communities. ASEE reaffirms our commitment to confront racism and sexism while supporting DEI efforts in our community.

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CHAIR, PROFESSIONAL INTEREST  
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**Lilly G. Gossage**  
CHAIR, COUNCIL OF SECTIONS, ZONE IV  
*California State Polytechnic University,  
Pomona*

**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**