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Moments of Reflection

To all members of the Northeastern community:

May 25, 2021 marks the one-year anniversary of the murder of George Floyd, a devastating tragedy that unleashed a global reckoning about racial injustice and systemic inequalities. Last summer, in the wake of this horrific event, and the protests that followed, Northeastern University committed “to do more to confront anti-Black discrimination, and to achieve our ambitions for diversity, inclusion, and equality on our campuses.”

Informed by listening sessions, town halls, and working groups, President Aoun renewed the university’s commitment to “eradicate the scourge of systemic racism” through an [Action Plan](#) that would achieve two goals:

1. Create a purposeful approach that will improve the presence and experiences of all under-represented populations, with particular emphasis on Black Americans, and
2. To make this the work of *everyone* at Northeastern who is in a position of influence and leadership.

Over the past year, we have made significant progress, though more work must be done to produce a truly inclusive university as our recent work on Anti-Asian Hate attests.

As we look to the future, we know that purposeful reflection is the key to learning. Thus, we are asking that all members of the Northeastern community take a moment – **9 minutes and 29 seconds** – the amount of time George Floyd was pressed to the ground by former Officer Derek Chauvin – to pause and reflect on the past, the present, and the future work necessary to construct a roadmap toward inclusive excellence.

Please join President Aoun, members of the Senior Leadership Team, and me, on Centennial Common on the Boston campus in a quiet moment of reflection at 12 noon EDT this Tuesday, May 25. We will gather physically distanced as a community to reflect on this moment, to mourn the unnecessary loss of life due to racial violence, and to renew our commitment to work toward creating

inclusive campuses and communities. For those who are unable to join us in person across the global network, whether in a classroom, in an office or lab, or online, please take this opportunity wherever you are to participate in this reflection.

We ask that the whole Northeastern community—faculty, students, staff, and alumni—use this opportunity to pause and reflect.

Let us use this waypoint in time, not to forget the past, but to work toward a better future . . . together.

For more information about this Moment of Reflection, please reach out to me. I look forward to seeing and hearing from you on Tuesday.

Sincerely,

Karl Reid

Senior Vice Provost and Chief Inclusion Officer