

**Message from the President**  
**Bennington College**  
**May 25, 2021**

Dear Bennington community,

On this anniversary of the murder of George Floyd, I want to take a moment to rededicate ourselves to the mission of antiracism, to honor the countless lives lost in this country to state-sanctioned racism, and to draw inspiration from the hundreds of thousands of Americans who took to the streets to call for change over the course of the past year.

We cannot let the passage of time dim the outrage and resolve we shared in the wake of Floyd's death—not while the systemic forces that contributed to his murder remain unaltered. At least [1,068 people](#) have been killed by police in this country since that day, a disproportionate number of them Black and Brown. And while a number of promising reforms have been passed in several states, it's clear that these changes have been too modest, too slow, and too inconsistent to effect real change.

Antiracism is an active practice, something we do each day to unwind the historically racist policies and habits built into American life. It is in that spirit that we are remaking the culture of Bennington College with a vision of a fully antiracist tomorrow.

With compassion, humility and tireless resolve, we can be an engine of change here at Bennington. I am honored to do this work alongside all of you.

Laura Walker  
*President*