

Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce

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THE CHAMBER
WICHITA REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NEWS RELEASE

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Chamber Joins Young Professionals on Racial Justice

The Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce joined W, A Community of Young Professionals, in the release of a statement supporting racial justice and equality.

Chamber Chair Junetta Everett said the statement should be viewed as a unified effort by the business community. "We are adding the voices of our 1700 member-strong business organization to the young professionals from our affiliate, W, who recognize the importance of this issue in Wichita and across the country," said Everett.

"We stand in solidarity with the fight against racism and injustices directed at African Americans. To the African American community we say: We see you. We hear you. We stand by you. You matter. Your life matters. Black lives matter. We do not have all of the answers but progressing forward, we are dedicated to engaging in conversations and actions that bring change to the systemic racism that has plagued the African American community. We are all a part of the solution. It's up to all of us—black, white, everyone—to do the honest, uncomfortable work of rooting out racism. Together we must work to ensure justice for all."

Everett said W has been a Chamber affiliate for more than 15 years and now includes more than 3,000 young leaders in the region. "I really credit these young professionals for taking the lead on this issue and helping the Chamber and community recognize and focus on the critical need for unity and equality in these times," said Everett. "In the long run, it will be these emerging leaders who will drive real change as part of their own legacy."

Gary Plummer, Chamber President & CEO, acknowledged local law enforcement leaders and elected officials at the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County for their leadership. "Wichita has already established credibility on community relations that facilitates continued dialogue and real progress on racial justice and equality," said Plummer. "Although the Chamber still recognizes this work is challenging and we must continue our intentional focus on creating a more equitable community."

The Chamber has consistently made diversity, inclusion and equity a strategic priority, according to Everett. Programming has included leadership development, supplier diversity and minority business partnerships. At the May 28 meeting of the organization's Board of Directors, the Chamber also entered into a partnership with the City of Wichita on a racial equity initiative.

Learn more about the Chamber's current and future Diversity & Inclusion initiatives on the website - <https://www.wichitachamber.org/aboutchamber/diversity-and-inclusion/>. The Chamber's Diversity & Inclusion initiative is currently led by Marty Cornejo, Vice Chair of Inclusion, and Jonathan Long, Director of Community Advancement for the Chamber.

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