



# NOBCChE<sup>®</sup>

The National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists & Chemical Engineers

Dear NOBCChE Family,

The recent horrific deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery serve as painful reminders of the unjust society we live in and the grueling work that must be done to make our society a place that respects and honors all humanity. We recognize that these are beyond difficult and challenging times, and those words alone do not adequately address what many of us are experiencing today and, have also experienced throughout our and our ancestors' lives. As you seek to try to make sense of senseless acts of violence against our Black and Brown brothers and sisters and other people of color, the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE) wants you to know that you are not alone. You are important. You are valued. You are deserving of life and a life of liberty, justice, and peace.

Black leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr., Malcom X, and Fannie Lou Hamer dedicated their lives so we might enjoy simple liberties promised to every American by the Constitution. Still, our community continues to be subjected to unfair treatment by the criminal justice system as well as in our places of education, employment, and other institutions because of our hue. George Floyd was unjustly murdered by police using a physical knee to his neck. Many of us are strangled by a metaphoric knee in this society that restricts the air to our lungs through institutional racism. NOBCChE wants to assist all our family members so that we have the fair opportunity to breathe despite the everyday chokeholds many of us experience.

In 1972, the founders of NOBCChE experienced many of the unreasonable obstacles that Black chemists and chemical engineers are forced to navigate. In response to this, they created an organization; solely focused on assisting Black chemists and chemical engineers in "advancing their professional endeavors by adding value to their academic, development, leadership, and philanthropic endeavors throughout the life-cycle of their careers." We exist today to continue advancing this mission. We have increased our own organizational diversity and inclusivity to impact others, and will continue working with all individuals that are in support of our mission and vision to ensure a truly diverse, inclusive, and equitable STEM workforce.

In the coming weeks, the NOBCChE Board and leadership team will begin hosting a series of virtual meetings to create a space for us to discuss some of the issues that our members are experiencing. NOBCChE welcomes any ideas that you may have that might make these times more bearable.

Sincerely,

Murrell Godfrey  
NOBCChE President

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