

**==FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ==**

Nov. 18, 2020

Ashland – Faculty, student and staff organizations at Southern Oregon University today released a joint Statement of Support for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

The Associated Students of Southern Oregon University (ASSOU), the Service Employees International Union 503 (SEIU), sublocal 84, and the Association of Professors, Southern Oregon University (APSOU), issued the following Statement of Support for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:

As a new academic year begins, we call on all members of the SOU university community to treat each other with care and dignity. The students, staff and faculty of Southern Oregon University add our voices to those denouncing harassment and hateful behaviors intended to harm any member of our learning community on the basis of factors such as race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender expression, age, Indigeneity, national origin, immigration status, ability, marital status, sexual orientation, body size, neurotype or military status. At a national and local level, instances of bias, harassment, discrimination, oppression, or injustice must be confronted and condemned, and offending parties held responsible. Our nation is built on sacred but unfulfilled ideals of respect for all people. In order to work toward this ideal, the Associated Students of SOU; Association of Professors, Southern Oregon University (APSOU); and Service Employees International Union Local 503 (representing classified staff) are committed to holding ourselves and our colleagues accountable to these ideals in our personal and professional practices. In the profound words of Dr. Martin Luther King: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

The leadership of the three organizations have committed themselves to working together to advance a safe, inclusive and diverse campus and community and will work with other campus leaders to advance the goals of the statement.

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