

# FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGES

## NEWSLETTER

*This month's feature comes from Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Tia Robinson-Cooper, who is leading critical work regarding law enforcement education reform.*



In response to the murder of George Floyd and to address concerns from the community, Inver Hills Community College (Inver Hills) formed a Campus Advisory Board to guide important discussion around racial equity in law enforcement.

I'm proud to lead this group which consists of law enforcement personnel from around the region, Inver Hills faculty, staff & administrators, as well as members of the community.

While education is not the whole solution to police reform, it is a piece of the puzzle. Approximately 86 percent of Minnesota's graduates in law enforcement graduated from one of the Minnesota State colleges or universities.

As an institution with law enforcement and criminal justice programming, Inver Hills seeks to make the needed changes in our programming to develop and prepare our graduates for the important work for which they will be engaged.

That work begins by confronting some hard truths. This fall, Inver Hills offered a new course titled, "The Murder of George Floyd: As American as Apple Pie." Taught by two community members – Titilayo Bediako and Antonia Wilcoxon – the course explores systemic racism within the United States, promotes an understanding of the narratives associated with the murder of George Floyd, and examines how we move forward with dismantling this oppressive system.

Furthermore, the work of the Campus Advisory Board has led to Inver Hills developing inclusive and intentional programs. Starting in spring 2021, Inver Hills will pilot a Social Justice certificate program. In fall 2021, the college will begin to offer a Social Justice associate's degree program, as well as a culturally responsive Law Enforcement associate's degree program.

Ultimately, Inver Hills seeks to partner with Minnesota State University-Mankato, Winona State University, and Metropolitan State University to provide a pathway for a four-year credential in criminal justice and/or law enforcement.

Dr. Janica Austad, Associate Dean of Career Programs, Dr. Leslie Palmer, Criminal Justice Faculty, and Michael Birchard, Associate Vice President of Equity and Inclusion have joined me in leading in this work, and our efforts have been noticed. Recently, we presented our culturally responsive Law Enforcement curriculum framework to the Minnesota State Board of Trustees, and Michael Birchard and I were appointed by the Minnesota State Chancellor, Devinder Malhotra, to sit on the Minnesota State Taskforce on Law Enforcement Education Reform.

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### IN THE NEWS

- [Tia Robinson-Cooper and Michael Birchard serving on Law Enforcement Education Reform taskforce](#)
- [GAP Year: COVID has student taking time off before college](#)
- [DCTC Online Marketing degree among top in the country](#)

Stay up to date with our campus communities at [DCTC News](#) and [Inver Hills News](#)

### UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

- [Inver Hills Theatre offers double Halloween feature](#)
- [Join us for the Inver Hills Virtual Open House](#)
- [Attend one of DCTC's Tuesday visits](#)

### CONTACT US

If you have any questions, feedback, or would like to be removed from this Newsletter please send all correspondences to [cherrera@inverhills.edu](mailto:cherrera@inverhills.edu).

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