

White Learning & Accountability Space

On May 30, 2020, President Hatch sent an email to the Wake Forest University community, calling upon us to confront systemic racism. He reminded us, "We cannot ignore injustice or wish away racism and bigotry." Further, on June 9, he wrote, "Denouncing the atrocities we have witnessed is imperative. Actively working to create communities where justice and equity reign is even more important. Knowing that black lives matter must rise above the performative and perfunctory through deliberate, sustained effort."

In this spirit, the Office of Civic & Community Engagement and the Professional Development Center are launching a space for staff and faculty at Wake Forest University to learn about whiteness and white supremacy culture, ask questions, discuss openly and authentically, and engage each other in a community of learning and accountability. This is a personal and professional development opportunity for staff and faculty who are ready and willing to do the work of confronting white supremacy in our lives, our work, and our relationships.

As a learning community, we will:

- Build competencies and skills related to anti-racism
- Advance personal resilience in conversations about race
- Develop accountability relationships with other white folks
- Increase bandwidth to offer and receive feedback

What this IS:

- A space of learning and accountability
- An opportunity for personal and professional development
- A community of colleagues from across Wake Forest University
- A weekly commitment of one hour, in addition to time spent reading and reflecting outside of the meetings

What this is NOT:

- A mandatory professional development opportunity; this is an opt-in space
- A book club; this is a space of learning and accountability where participants will actively work to develop skills, competencies, and resilience around anti-racism work
- A dialogue group; while participants will be asked to share openly and authentically, this is not a neutral space, participants should expect to have their views challenged.

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