



### Four Forensic Families Stand in Solidarity

While we are daily facing and trying to overcome the challenges related to COVID-19 in a unified way, we are stopped in our tracks as we once again experience tragedy born of inequality. We cannot fully express our feelings of sadness, frustration and helplessness, or completely understand the pain and anger that so many in our community are feeling. The tragic deaths of George Floyd and many before him, serve as a reminder that, when it comes to communities of color we as a society have failed to live up to one of the founding pillars of this country; that all people are created equal and should be treated with respect and dignity.

To our Black competitors, coaches, judges, and friends who once again have witnessed the senseless and tragic killing of a Black man at the hands of law enforcement, know that the forensics community stands with you.

**We** will continue to fight for true equity within our community.

**We** will continue to fight for accessibility.

**We** will continue to fight for accountability.

But, most of all, we **must** continue to stand up when any member of our forensics community, or any member of a minority population, faces racism, bigotry, or oppression in any form.

**We pledge together as four leading organizations in the forensics community to:**

**Provide** standing resources for equity, diversity and inclusivity of all of our members;

**Hold** those who do exhibit racist, bigoted, or oppressive behavior accountable;

**Create** Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity training for competitors, coaches and judges;

**Support** our communities of color through mentorship of coaches, promoting diversity in our leadership, and celebrating the accomplishments of minorities in our historical awards.

But most importantly, we **pledge** to listen--honestly listen--to better ourselves as organizations that seek to uplift the voices and lives of those who are targeted by systemic violence.

Within the coming weeks we will continue to work in a collaborative manner to see what else we can do in support of those in our community who are currently in need of justice.