

From: [Communications](#)
To: [Communications](#)
Subject: Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Statement on McMichael & Bryan Verdict
Date: Wednesday, November 24, 2021 1:45:54 PM

Dear Lawrence Community,

I write for the second time in less than a week on the heels of another verdict in our nation's ongoing struggle to reconcile the role that race and racism plays in our society and our justice system. Earlier today, Travis McMichael, Gregory McMichael, and William Bryan were found guilty of the murder of Ahmaud Arbery. We send our deepest sympathies to the Arbery family and hope they and members of our community can find some solace in this verdict.

The tensions that this, and other recent trials, have highlighted can be felt among our friends, family, classmates, and colleagues every day. This is why Lawrence's commitment to becoming a more inclusive, equity-minded, antiracist institution is more important than ever. I look forward to working with Lawrence students, faculty, and staff as we move forward, together, to ensure that we are a community in which all are welcomed, valued, and supported.

One important step will be a campus wide forum, sponsored by the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, in the new year, during which our community will be provided an opportunity to discuss and process the intersections of the legal, racial, and moral implications of these recent trials. More information on the forum will be shared in January.

I encourage us all to seek community and support, if needed, in light of today's news. For those Lawrentians who are on campus over winter break, [Wellness Services](#), [Spiritual & Religious Life](#), and the [Diversity & Intercultural Center](#) will be available after the Thanksgiving holiday on Monday, November 29. Students who are off-campus over break can also reach out to Wellness Services to schedule a remote session.

I hope that you have a peaceful and safe break, and I look forward to our ongoing work together in the new year.

Dr. Eric Mayes
Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Professor of Education