Dear Students, Alumni, Faculty and Staff,

The tragic death of George Floyd has sparked protests from Americans of diverse backgrounds. His death has sparked protests from Americans of diverse backgrounds and renewed the call to advance racial justice with leaders affirming the need to work toward this goal. Those of us who are law enforcement officers, politicians, students, educators, and citizens must work toward a better future. We are made stronger when we reach out to those who feel marginalized, disadvantaged or threatened.

We recognize the pain, fear, anger and sense of hopelessness that students, alumni and many in our School of Social Work and people all around the world are experiencing. His death followed other recent events that have contributed to feelings of despair. His death has sparked protests from Americans of diverse backgrounds. His death is deeply disturbing.

Racism, discrimination, white nationalism, white supremacy, micro-aggressions, neo-Nazism, violence and hate in any form is unacceptable behavior and must be immediately and strongly denounced. More than any other profession, we recognize the importance and strength of diversity and inclusion. We change how law enforcement and the criminal justice systems are structured.

We support those who feel marginalized, disadvantaged or threatened. We urge everyone to demand reform of policing and to remember to be kind to one another.

Dean's Statement on George Floyd

Dean Ryan has indicated that there is an immediate need to sustain the students (working) in various social service agency shutdowns amid rising coronavirus infection rates, to complete their internships.

On June 18, UT Arlington President Michael P. Rose joined social work faculty and students from the University of Texas System campuses who best exemplify excellence, innovation and a commitment to student success.

Joe Milkes, chief executive officer at the Wolens Foundation, said the organization's donation was to help create more than 200 internship positions for Social Work students to offer intervention and support services across the United States, specifically in the Confederate states.

The 2020 Outstanding Teaching Award recipients were recognized with a video shown during the Board of Regents meeting on August 20. Each awardee also is given a certificate, medallion and $25,000 in recognition of their impact on students and their institutions.

By awarding scholarships, foundation leaders hope to encourage greater numbers of students to study mental health. Serdarevic's scholarship is $5,000.

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A Plano foundation has donated $100,000 to UT Arlington's School of Social Work to create more than 200 internship positions for Social Work students to offer intervention and support services across the United States, specifically in the Confederate states.

In the video, faculty members announced awards to graduate and undergraduate students for outstanding academic achievements, successfully completing field internships, receipt of scholarships, community involvement, leadership in university organizations and professional engagement.

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By Valerie Fields Hill

The Hogg Foundation is an Austin-based organization dedicated to improving access to mental health services across Texas through their field internships and volunteer work.

Diane Mitschke, associate dean for academic and student affairs, said the Social Work honorees were celebrated because they had made "positive impacts…in communities across the state of Texas through their field internships and volunteer work."

Dean Ryan said, "Ericka and Stephanie are exemplary members of the UT Arlington faculty because they always put our students first. Ericka is an Associate Professor of Public Administration in the College of Business, also won the award."

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