



Office of Equity and Inclusion

March 1, 2021

We, the ETSU Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council join Dr. Keith Johnson, Vice President of Equity and Inclusion, in sharing our support for the Men's Basketball Team, who took a knee in peaceful protest during the playing of the national anthem at their game on Monday, February 15th in the middle of Black History Month. Public backlash has left many of our students, faculty, and staff feeling angry, disappointed, and frustrated. Today, we write to you to say it's important to acknowledge these feelings, reflect on these feelings, and then redirect them into positive action.

This past week, we have watched our campus community come together, stand together, and kneel together. We have seen students, faculty, and staff across racial backgrounds join to elevate voices that have been silenced for too long. We have seen a community full of hurt and disappointment redirect those emotions to actively working towards cultivating a more inclusive and equitable community within our ETSU home. When communities come together, that is where the power is. We are proud of our community and we encourage each and every member of it to speak up against injustice, every single time. Today, we celebrate our Men's Basketball Team and we celebrate our students' commitment towards elevating our university mission of respecting diversity and understanding that people come first.

*With admiration,
The ETSU Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council*