



Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development

A division of the American Counseling Association

www.amcdaca.org

October 22, 2007

2007-08

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Dr. Susan Fuhrman, President
Teachers College
Columbia University
525 West 120th Street
New York, NY 10027

Dear Dr. Fuhrman,

As you are well aware, our counseling colleague, Dr. Madonna Constantine, was recently subjected to an act of terrorism when someone placed a noose on her office door. While some may view this as an isolated act of an extremist, a mentally impaired individual, or a disgruntled student, others have more accurately assessed this incident as one of a string of racially charged acts of aggression and intimidation against socio-politically vulnerable individuals.

Teaching in content areas that challenge long-held beliefs about White privilege and supremacy, educational hegemony, bias, and discrimination against people of color and other socially marginalized individuals and communities places faculty in precarious positions. Needless to say, many of us who teach multicultural, diversity, and social justice courses are afraid to teach these subjects, conduct research, and write in our topic areas.

As the multicultural association that brought out the multicultural counseling competencies in 1992 and its updates in 1996 and 2003, we raise our voices against intimidating acts within our own counseling profession and within our teaching and training environments. AMCD has steadfastly been at the forefront, addressing issues of injustice since its inception; let us remain proactive in our efforts.

The AMCD executive council will be discussing what concrete actions can be taken, both short-term and long-term, that can aid in: (a) decreasing the number and intensity of hate-crime incidents nationally and (b) ameliorating the effects of systemic oppression on socially marginalized individuals and communities.

In the meantime, we send our strongest support and spirit of unity to Dr. Constantine and everyone else at Teachers College who was directly affected by this egregious act.

Sincerely,

Cirecie West-Olatunji, Ph. D.
AMCD President

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c/o Dr. «GreetingLine», President

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