

UP CEO Statement on the Tragic Loss of Daunte Wright

Dear members of the UP community,

I am writing to share in the heartache, pain and stress our community is feeling after the tragic loss of another young Black father's life in Minnesota, Daunte Wright. Just miles from the courthouse where another police officer is on trial for the murder of George Floyd. These senseless tragedies affect all of us, and watching the images gives us pain and sorrow for Daunte and his family and for George Floyd's family and the agony we see them going through while the trial is happening simultaneously. We know this is a result of systemic racism and a society that does not value Black lives and the lives of people of color.

It's important to acknowledge the root cause, and acknowledge the feelings, emotions and added stress we are all experiencing this week. I ask every member of our community, from students and staff to families and community members, to make and take the time and space you need to process, mourn and connect with others. I know this news is heavy, and there's a lot going on in the world right now. Together, we are stronger and more resilient, but no words can take away the pain we feel from the loss of life.

We are committed to the work of racial equity and focused on cultivating a more inclusive community. We are engaging in opportunities for continuous growth and learning including examining our own biases, being an anti-racist and how to best support our colleagues, students and families.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica Conforme', written in a cursive style.

Veronica Conforme, CEO