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Dr. Philip G. Rogers
Chancellor, East Carolina University

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7 October 2022

Dear Dr. Philips G. Rogers,

We are writing to you on behalf of Our America in an effort to open a dialogue and provide constructive criticism after reading about your 2022 faculty convocation.

During the convocation, many members of your faculty took the time to promote Critical Race Theory (CRT) believing it would foster a “welcoming” environment. There is no question that creating a welcoming environment for your students should be a top priority. Students at your university should feel like their unique voices matter. It is only by encouraging dialogue that universities can fulfill the primary goal of academia – the pursuit of truth.

While at first glance, CRT may appear to be a novel way to understand race relations in the United States, CRT is an exclusionary and divisive movement. As two CRT founders write:

Unlike traditional civil rights discourse, which stresses incrementalism and step-by-step progress, critical race theory questions the very foundations of the liberal order; including equality theory, legal reasoning, Enlightenment rationalism, and neutral principles of constitutional law.¹

By their own admission, CRT rejects equality theory and principles of constitutional law thereby making it, by definition, a discriminatory theory.

The exclusionary nature of CRT becomes all too clear when it is adopted as a guiding principle in higher education. Take for example the recent case in which the University of South Carolina adopted CRT’s teachings and excluded white students from applying for certain academic opportunities. It was only after a University of Michigan professor filed a Title VI Civil Rights complaint that the university was forced to open the opportunity to all applicants.²

¹ See *Critical Race Theory: An Introduction (3rd Ed)* Pg. 3. by Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic

² See <https://dailycaller.com/2022/05/22/university-of-south-carolina-title-vi-ix/>



Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and the Equal Protection Clause of the United States Constitution make it illegal for a public university such as East Carolina University (ECU) to treat students differently based on the color of their skin. Yet, since Critical Race Theory rejects equality theory, while also emphasizing the superficially important criterion of skin color by advocating for benefits to students based on their ethnicity, it is at odds with established anti-discrimination law and the 14th Amendment.

Yet, despite this type of discrimination being illegal, examples of CRT in action are plentiful.

In 2021, at the prestigious Brown University, both white and Asian students were barred from enrolling in a “mindfulness” course.³

Earlier this academic year, the University of California, San Diego planned to host an orientation week that was open only to minority students and their families. It was only after substantial pushback from the community that the university was forced to open the event to students of all races.⁴

At Arizona State University late last year two black students harassed two white students for having lunch in a multicultural space.⁵ That is unacceptable. If two white students were to harass a Black and Latino student like Barrington and myself for being in a white space, it would've made national headlines. CRT ideology seeks to create equality through inequalities which ultimately divides and sparks hatred more than it brings people together.

CRT should not be a guiding principle in higher education because, in reality, it advocates for illegal discrimination. CRT is everything the Civil Rights movement fought against.

But what is at stake here is more than just following the law.

Students who attend your university, as well as the parents who send them there, expect you will create a positive learning environment in which the uniqueness of each individual is respected. CRT fails to build such an environment because of its obsession with race. Instead, by advocating for more divisive and discriminatory practices, CRT “achieves” the exact opposite – it creates a more racially charged environment and, in the process, drags America back more than half a century.

We stand against CRT because it reduces our entire identity into neat racial boxes instead of taking the time to understand the uniqueness of our identity. We believe that no matter who you are, or where you come from, whether rich or poor, black, or white; all people must be free to pursue their dreams for themselves and their families. This is the essence of American greatness.

³ See <https://nypost.com/2022/06/23/brown-university-mindfulness-course-offered-only-to-minority-students/>

⁴ See <https://www.thefire.org/ucsd-must-open-segregated-orientation-to-all-students-regardless-of-race/>

⁵ See <https://www.newsweek.com/video-white-students-leave-multicultural-space-viral-1632411>

If ECU wants to build a welcoming environment for all students, it needs to teach fundamental values to which all of us can agree, regardless of ethnicity or skin color. This means the basic idea of freedom of speech – everyone has the right to speak truth to power. It also includes equal opportunity – no matter where you come from, you have the right to fight for success. As well as dignity and respect – the idea that no matter your skin color, every person is unique and deserves the same rights as everyone else.

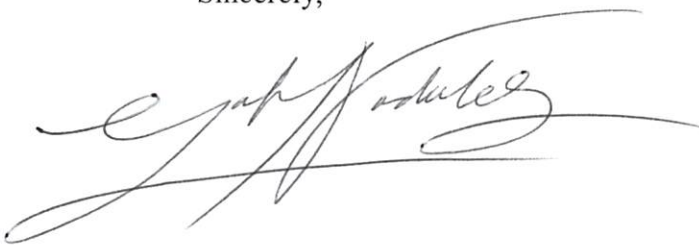
Lastly, ECU should teach its students to unify under one banner – the American banner. Because America is and has always been the most welcoming nation in human history. While it is easy to point out faults in American history where we fell short of the promise of equality, the fundamental values of America have always helped people from all walks of life thrive.

We should live life respecting the dignity and worth of every human being, and not spend so much time separating people into categories based on race, class, or gender. We are all Americans. Our diversity unites us, it should not divide us.

If ECU wants to create a welcoming environment for all students, ECU should reject CRT and embrace students for their unique character and intellectual rigor, not their skin color.

At Our America, we welcome your thoughts about the issues we have raised today. We would like to continue this conversation so we can help your school transform into an institution that values true diversity while respecting every student's individual experience.

Sincerely,



Gabriel Nadales
National Director – Western Region
Our America



Barrington Dean Martin II
National Director – Eastern Region
Our America