

UCLA BLM – Faculty Reflections, 6/5/2020
Dr. Keith Norris

(8 min and 46 sec of silence at Reagan ends)

That was a long period of time even without a knee on your neck.

I gave my first eulogy at age 16, a friend of mine across the street from me, died in police custody. I have given many eulogies since then. I hope with everyone here, my next eulogy is for the end of systemic racism.

Closing remarks authored by SNMA leadership, read by Dr. Keith Norris:

We would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to all who have joined us today. We want to thank all those who were involved in organizing this event, including DOCS 4 POC, Latino Medical Student Association, and Student National Medical Association. We want to especially thank the Committee of Interns and Residents (CIR) - without them, this protest wouldn't be possible.

Today marks only the beginning of active change in our communities, in our institution, and in our country.

It is one thing to protest and sign petitions. But real change begins when we start having those difficult conversations. It starts with us speaking up to family and friends who have held racist and xenophobic ideals. It starts with us speaking up to professors, attendings, and colleagues who are being cavalier about health equity. It starts with us speaking UP.

Words are the catalyst to action, but we cannot take action if we don't speak up. We encourage you to not forget this moment. We encourage you to not forget the names of those who have lost their lives to heinous actions of anti-blackness in this country.

Change starts today and it starts with us.

Thank you all for being here today and being part of change and action. Again, on behalf of the medical students, interns, residents and all the health care workers here at UCLA, thank you for supporting Black lives.