

June 8, 2020

As an organization Conner Prairie recognizes we have been falling short of meeting the needs of our staff and community around race and inclusion. We stand in solidarity with the needed protests over police violence and brutality, white supremacy, and the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others lost forever at the hands of hatred and systemic racism in a long pattern throughout American history. Conner Prairie stands with the Black community.

We believe Black lives matter. We believe that when one of us is not free, none of us are free. We vow to work for systemic change and growth within our own institution. We vow to learn from that growth to educate our visitors on the full story of America. We must engage *all* Americans to step into the story, one that they have created and recognize to be true.

We openly and honestly acknowledge that racism remains a problem within our organization, just as it is within our community and nation. By acknowledging these truths, we can begin to address the systemic issues facing both our own organization and the greater society through our mission.

We have sought out the resources needed to examine our systems, policies and procedures to address these systemic challenges. In October 2019, Conner Prairie took the intentional steps to learn from local and national diversity and inclusion experts. As part of this work, last week Conner Prairie's CEO communicated internally to staff acknowledging the privilege afforded to him as a white male, and promised to work with the community and others to ensure that Conner Prairie is taking the appropriate steps within our organization to hold our teams accountable moving forward.

Conner Prairie is committed to even more transparency as we continue the planning of a new, permanent 19th Century African American settlement on the grounds. Under the guidance of an African American Curator, we will be building on history and illustrating the similarities shared between the struggles of Black people today and those of the 19th century. We will lay a foundation for learning from the past to inform the present in ways that will make tomorrow's story one that involves everyone.