



Peace and Purpose

Over this past weekend, we have seen the most disruptive protests across our nation since the 1960s fueled by citizens' frustration over the senseless death of another African American young man named George Floyd. If you watched CNN as I did, you saw young people unable to express their disbelief, to enforce their power peacefully nor hold on any longer. The wave of protests started in Minnesota, carried across the nation, erupted in multiple cities, and ended in waves of vandalism and flames all amidst the backdrop of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In 1992, I watched the riots after the Rodney King verdict, and here I sit almost 30 years later, and another generation is rioting. My generation has failed to do the work it should have to eliminate the sins of the Rodney King years. What we can do now, however, is empower this frustrated generation to create a political agenda, place them in careers that will change the narrative of hopelessness, and turn over the reins of democracy to those who will focus on providing opportunities that strengthen all Americans.

As an African American leader of a higher education institution, I must address the arduous work that is ahead of us.

What can we do at CCBC?

1. Titans can have authentic conversations with our students and employees about ethnicity and race, poverty and disenfranchisement, and political and social injustice.
2. Titans can continue to hire, promote, and retain a diverse workforce so our students see themselves in us and leave prepared to maneuver in a multicultural world.
3. Titans must educate our students on how to seize power, build a progressive agenda, and manifest change for the benefit of future generations.
4. Titans must leverage our institutional reputation so that others see CCBC as the place and the pathway for this generation to improve their lives.
5. Titans must shift our consciousness and learn to speak up and say right is right and wrong is wrong, regardless of our race, gender, religion, nationality, economic status, sexual orientation, or political agenda.
6. Titans must embed in our globalization curriculum the historical impact of current federal policies and laws while focusing on the solutions needed to lift the lives of people of color, immigrants, the poor, and other disenfranchised populations.
7. Titans cannot continue to fail another generation.

As we plan to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, higher education must be the leader, and CCBC must lead with peace and purpose – in ways that heal our community and our nation and repair the damage in the national tapestry. Only then can America be the land of the free and the home of the brave where every one of us lives the American dream.

I am open to all ideas, suggestions, and solutions for a better future.

Seeking peace and justice,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Roger W. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Dr. Roger W. Davis
President