

## **Black Lives Matter to DCLC**

Delaware County Literacy Council (DCLC) believes Black lives matter and is committed to fight racism's impact on our community.

At DCLC we see the impact of systemic racism on the lives of our Black and Brown students. Our students have had their opportunities, their safety, and their health undercut by systemic racism. When Black and Brown adults come to DCLC, many have been failed by an unequal educational system built upon generations of racial and socio-economic sorting that allowed them to become a "drop-out" statistic. Many of our students live in communities burdened by violence, mass incarceration of Black men, and a lack of support for returning citizens. And even before COVID-19 swept the world, we saw our students' chronic diseases and lack of healthcare access disrupt their progress toward their goals.

Systemic racism erodes our vital institutions and creates the need for adult education services. We work toward the day when our services will become unnecessary because our educational, justice, and health systems are free of racism.

For forty-five years DCLC has worked to give adults the skills and support they need to thrive in the workplace and the community. DCLC will build upon this work to intentionally combat racism.

As we move forward, we will make the following activities part of our efforts to fight racism:

- DCLC instructors will intentionally include course content that educates all students about systemic racism.
- DCLC will amplify the voices and experiences of Black and Brown students through an essay contest.
- DCLC will host a series of workshops that address systemic and personal racism for staff, volunteers, students, and community members.
- DCLC will use its community platform at special events to honor activists who fight racism.
- DCLC's facilities will be rich in educational materials, accessible to all skill levels, that celebrate past and present heroes in the fight against racism.
- DCLC will actively seek goods and services from local Black-owned businesses.

DCLC is a community-based organization that is committed to meeting the needs of our community. These are the initial steps we plan to fight racism, but they are not the only steps we will take. We will listen to our Black and Brown students, staff, and volunteers to learn more about our role in fighting racism. We believe Black lives matter.