

In the weeks following the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others, we at the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) have been thinking about how these tragedies have magnified the topics of systemic racism and police brutality. The Black community is no stranger to these topics, and we recognize as non-Black people that simply not having to think about these topics of systemic racism outside of these events is a privilege.

While our mission and vision state our support to Hispanics in STEM, our chapter recognizes that we have an obligation to speak out against not only the unjust deaths of Black people at the hands of the police, but also the inevitability of these acts due to the continued state of our institutions. For this reason, we believe it is imperative that we affirm our support for the Black community.

As Latinx people, we understand our specific obligation to advocate for justice in the Black community. The experiences of both communities can at times parallel each other. This does not mean that our experiences can be, or should be, compared to the experiences of the Black community, but they should compel us to join in solidarity.

For years some of our most consistent members, vocal supporters, and staunch advocates have been our Black peers. At Pitt, our Black peers have showed us nothing but love and support, even serving to advance our mission of raising STEM awareness in the Hispanic community on several occasions.

In Spanish, there is a saying that goes: Hoy tú, mañana yo, which means today you, tomorrow me. Today, and in the coming weeks, months, and years, we as a chapter will stand with the Black community as they have and as we know they will continue to do for us.