

Bonner Program

We carry heavy hearts following the murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and the many lives that have been taken at the hands of the police in protest of these deaths across the country. We acknowledge that systemic oppression and violence against black and brown bodies in the United States has persisted for centuries, and we commit to deepening our fight against these systems that endanger the lives of black and brown people in our community. The members of the Stetson Bonner Program strive to be against racism that is subtle, overt, and systemic on our campus, in our community, and in our world.

The Bonner Program is a community of compassionate, introspective, and action-oriented students who participate in trainings to identify and fight against injustices of all forms. We are a community of people who believe in the power of building sustained relationships with leaders in our community for transformational, collaborative work. Our members come from across the world, and their unique perspectives enrich our Program and our work in Volusia County. We commit to open intentional dialogue within our program to listen to the lived experiences of our members and to identify ways in which our students see inconsistencies with our beliefs and actions.

In order to move forward as a community, our Program must own the ways in which we have not shown up to combat racism on our campus and in our city. Our Program has not been an equal partner to the Multicultural Student Council or the Black Student Association, and we have not amplified black voices within our Program enough. In the past, we have not held all members accountable to be present in dialogues and actions led on our campus. We commit to holding ourselves accountable and to showing our commitment to equity more explicitly and directly in the future. We strive to collaborate with peer leaders of justice-focused organizations to support efforts already taking place on our campus and to create space for further shared dialogue and action.

In the next year, the Stetson Bonner Program commits to take the following actions to combat white supremacy and police brutality at Stetson and in Volusia County.

- Facilitate, in partnership with community leaders, ongoing anti-racism training to educate our students and seek to prevent Bonner community work from reinforcing white supremacy in our community
- Donate \$10,000 to our nonprofit partners in DeLand toward initiatives that serve to build community between Stetson and the Spring Hill community
- Facilitate educational trainings for all members of our broader community, which will particularly address the intersection of racial justice within the context of varied issues
- Use program funds and collaborate with student organizations to share educational resources and bring students into spaces of dialogue in our City (ex: City Commission meetings, conversations with DeLand Police Department, and town halls with local politicians)
- Participate in social action to address policy changes in support of equity across the County

The Stetson Bonner Program stands with Black Lives Matter and strives to be a community of individuals who hold anti-racist principles as core to our work. We will continue to share

resources for education and action within Central Florida and remain committed to standing behind organizations leading these efforts in our community.
In Bonner love and solidarity,
The Stetson Bonner Program