



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN
COLORADO

Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership

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Welcome to 2020!

Dear HESAL community,

In December's letter, I offered some reflections on the end of 2019, the closing of a decade, and the seasonal shifts to wintery dark, cold nights. I shared my lesson of **how, in times of darkness, we bring our own light forward from a place of loving kindness towards self and our fellow humxns**. Finding the light in the darkness is so meaningful and critical these chaotic days in higher education and society around us. They require us to be intentional with our learning and professional development and to be committed to nourishing and promoting transformational changes through community.

In a sermon titled, "Remaining Awake through a Great Revolution" given at the National Cathedral in 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said:

No individual can live alone, no nation can live alone and anyone who feels that he can live alone is sleeping through a revolution.

In this sermon, he references the story of Rip Van Winkle who climbed up a mountain and slept through a revolution in the country from monarchy to democracy. When Van Winkle awoke 20 years later, radical change had occurred and he was left out, unchanged, and unprepared for the world he walked back into.

Dr. King warned of the danger of sleeping through our revolutions and of not embracing and being a part the changes needed within ourselves and society. In this, Dr. King spoke of the need to see ourselves as all connected – to be of service to each other and through that relationship, we thereby nourish ourselves. We, as humxns, need community to both support us and to be supported by us, especially in these continuing times of turmoil and suffering. Over 50 years since his sermon, we all are faced with choice – to sleep through the revolutions around us or to embrace the always present nature of change. This requires us to look deep within ourselves, to know our strengths and opportunities for growth, and our purpose or calling. Only then can we shine ourselves out to others in support of their growth and change within the many levels of revolution.

As we enter this semester with coursework on topics from womxn and non-binaries, current issues, org/admin, theory, pedagogy, and more, we are given opportunities to revisit our beliefs and values that we have learned from family, culture, community, teachers, spiritual leaders, etc. I believe that the more we can shift to interconnectedness or oneness rather than individualism or independence, the more we can come to learning and growth that supports us all.

Connecting and extending MLK Jr's legacy, in *Killing Rage*, bell hooks says:

Beloved community is formed not by the eradication of difference from by its affirmation, by each of us claiming the identities and cultural legacies that shape who we are and how we live in the world.

Knowing ourselves first in the world is a required component to knowing others and then to creating community. Beloved community applies us as educators, practitioners, scholars, and leaders in that we develop our skills in transparent communication, conflict resolution, responsiveness to change, sustainability, and innovation. These competencies are needed for our time here to lead through these revolutions with heart, mind, and soul combined.

As I ready myself for the semester of teaching, administrating, and program reviewing, I reflect on these wise lessons from our great teachers. As a mentor of mine said recently:

Let our mouth speak the union of our heart and mind.

In crafting together my syllabus, I work through these quotes to select what readings and topics and their connected learning objectives and assignments will deepen learning along the value of beloved community. I reflect on other questions, too, such as:

- What feels authentic to who I am in these spaces?
- How do I integrate heart and mind through the words I offer? Through leadership?
- What practices help me pause to center myself before I speak? To stay in integrity?
- Are my values living in the important work I do with educating and serving others?
- I value community, so how am I crafting spaces that facilitate and nurture an inclusive and respectful beloved community full of differences and shared goals?
- I ask you all: **How then do you each promote interconnectedness and beloved community within HESAL? How will you show up in community?**

As leaders and professionals we all process through community development and what types of situations nurture sense of belonging and shared purpose. I believe that this type of community creation fosters learning and happens when we understand our inner selves and, extend out empathically and supportively to others.

Coming your way soon via email will be a survey of current and aspired values and their associated meanings of the HESAL program. We share this out to ask, do you see these values reflected in our HESAL community? Do they resonate with your experiences? Do you envision the same aspirational values? Or do you visualize something more revolutionary?

Be well, be together,



Bibliography of Inspiration:

hooks, b. (1995). *Killing Rage: Ending Racism*. Holt, Henry & Company, Inc.

King, M. L. (2000). *A Knock at Midnight: Inspiration from the Great Sermons of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.* Warner Books.

Williams, A. K. (2000). *Being Black: Zen and the Art of Living with Fearlessness and Grace*. Penguin Compass.

Williams, A. K., Owens, L. R., & Syedullah, J. (2016). *Radial Dharma: Talking Race, Love, and Liberation*. North Atlantic Books.



UPDATES and ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. HESAL Faculty Open Meetings – Open to All Students

January 30, February 27, March 26, April 23 at 12-1230 McKee 426 (conference room)

The HESAL faculty wish to increase feedback loops and communication between students and faculty. We welcome HESAL students to the last part of our faculty meetings the last of each month from noon-1230. JOIN US – ask what we are up to; offer topics and student perspectives; bring feedback to the group; share your ideas for strengthening the program and student experience! You are welcome to email Tamara in advance with discussion topics so that the faculty can be ready to discuss more specifically, but this is not required.

2. HESAL Program Review – What are we doing?

HESAL has started the self-study phase of the program review process. Here are some things we are working on as we wrap up fall semester:

- We began gathering data from units/platforms across UNC – this is largely aggregate data on enrollment, application, and graduation numbers.
- We have started exercises to determine HESAL values – real/enacted AND aspirational ones. A survey will be emailed out to you all separately for your feedback and recommendations.
- We have an external reviewer contracted – Dr. Saran Donahoo from Southern Illinois University - who will review our self-study materials and write a report with recommendations in late spring. Dr. Yakaboski and Dr. Donahoo will work closely together over the next few months to craft transparent feedback loops between her and students and other stakeholders. You can learn more about Dr. Donahoo here: <https://ehs.siu.edu/eahe/faculty-staff/saran-donahoo.php>
- In the spring, a couple MA HESAL students will intern with the program to work on revising experiential learning in HESAL.

3. Financial Deadlines reminder

- **HESAL Scholarships** are available to any HESAL student via UNC Foundation (private funding) – to be eligible students must fill out the UNC Universal Scholarship, available in URSA. You must complete the universal scholarship so that the faculty can consider you. The HESAL faculty make decisions in July 2020 to award for 2020-21 year.
- **Work Study** funding for graduate students – get on waitlist via Marty in Financial Aid. If you are eligible via FAFSA (federal funding), please get on the waitlist and this funding might be available to support field experiences or other hourly positions on campus.

4. Updates from YOUR HESAL Student Organization => HESA

- Check out **Facebook Page** for updates and events
<https://www.facebook.com/UNCHESA/>

5. SAVE THE DATES reminders

- **SPRING MA COMPS:**
 - **Check with Keyleigh to make sure you've filed both permission to take comps AND graduation forms**
 - Orientation for MA comps: **Jan 30** 5-530p, McKee 426 with Dr. Li
 - Exam: **Friday March 6th** in person location TBD or start of take home due by noon MST of Friday, March 13th.

Adhere to any [Graduate School deadlines for filing](#) graduation, etc

6. HESAL Social Media

HESAL Instagram account – check us out @uncohesal

Be sure to like our HESAL Facebook page to stay up to date on events and good news:

<https://www.facebook.com/UNCBearsHESAL/>

Like and follow the HESAL Student Organization (HSO):

<https://www.facebook.com/UNCHSO/>

HESAL Twitter account: @UNCoHESAL



Please reach out if you need anything!

On behalf of HESAL,

Tamara Yakaboski, Ph.D.

[pronouns: she/her/hers]

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Department Chair of Leadership, Policy and Development

Schedule an appointment: <https://tamarayakaboskiphd.as.me/>