



June 2, 2020

## ***President Gayle D. Beebe and Westmont College Respond to Our National Tragedy***

The killing of George Floyd last week has forced us to confront the brutal realities of a society and culture that continue to struggle with racism, hatred, bigotry and police violence. Our hearts grieve over his tragic and senseless killing along with Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and, sadly, so many others. These tragedies are all horrific reminders that hatred and evil exist and should have no place in our society or our world. As a college community, we are committed to the life and teachings of Jesus who taught us to love one another by learning to love our neighbor as ourselves. Learning to live together with difference and learning to love one another is at the heart of a community committed to truth-centered attitudes and other-centered practices. As an enduring testimony to our convictions, we stand with black communities and African Americans everywhere, and we're committed to work and pray for the day when they will not live in fear or experience oppression because of their race, but can live into the hopes and dreams they carry for their lives and their communities.

Gayle D. Beebe  
President

