



August 18, 2017

Dear Colleague,

The racially based violence at Charlottesville last weekend – and a lot of terrible statements over the last two years – have distressed me greatly. Options for Learning stands for equal opportunity for people of all races, ethnicities, religions and beliefs, sexual orientation and ability status – for both employees and the families we serve. Our agency is opposed to discrimination, bigotry, bias, sexism, economic injustice and any other form of injustice or oppression.

I am proud that in Options for Learning employees from a wide variety of racial and ethnic heritages, religions and beliefs, work together to help all families in our communities. Together we are pulling on the same end of the rope.

I want to take this opportunity for our agency to publicly stand against hate and discrimination – and stand for equal opportunity for all.

We are a safe place for children and families (and without regard for immigration status).

After all, our work every day is to help all children achieve their potential. Our Mission Statement is “Options for Learning is a leader in preparing children, and supporting families, for life success through innovative, quality child development programs.” And that means all children, all families, and all employees.

I believe the philosophy of non-violent action to achieve positive change – as taught by Ghandi, Martin Luther King, Cesar Chavez and others – is the way forward for our society. What we all do every day at Options for Learning is an important part of that positive change. And that includes standing against hate, racism, sexism and other forms of bigotry.

We stand with thousands of other organizations and groups in our country for what is right, and against what is wrong. And over time, even if too slowly, what is right will shape the future for our country and the world.

Thank you for your daily work to help our families, each other, and positive change in our society.

I respect each and every one of you,

Cliff Marcussen,
Executive Director

Options for Learning

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