



Dear Ashford Staff and Faculty,

Today marks Juneteenth, a critically important day in the history of our nation. Juneteenth celebrates the true end of slavery in the United States, which officially took place on June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger led thousands of federal troops to Galveston, Texas, and issued General Order No. 3. In this order, he affirmed that the Civil War had ended and enslaved peoples were free.

Juneteenth today celebrates the rich and vibrant contributions of African-Americans to our diverse national culture. Especially during a time in our history when events call for a reexamination of our national life, Juneteenth gives us an opportunity to reflect on how we can work together to build a society that truly expresses the common values of social justice and equality.

As we continue our work strengthening our Ashford community, please join me in helping make this a day of meaningful remembrance of the past and creating a new vision for our future. For local and national Juneteenth commemoration opportunities, check your local event calendars or visit this [link](#).

I also invite you to join us for our Ashford **Turn the Tide** conversations, that begin Tuesday, June 30, 2020, and will continue for the next five months. These conversations will focus on five themes: Solidarity, Safety, Love, Equality, and Social Justice. Panel members will lead a discussion to engage in a meaningful exchange with our Ashford community. Following each panel discussion, faculty and staff will have the opportunity to join smaller group conversations around the panel's theme. Watch for more information next week.

Finally, in recognition of this important day, the deadline for course assignments has been extended from Friday, June 19, to Saturday, June 20. Students are encouraged to submit their assignments as early as possible and to remember the attendance policy as laid out in the *Ashford University Academic Catalog* is still in effect.

Sincerely yours,

Craig

CRAIG D. SWENSON, PH.D. / PRESIDENT

Ashford University



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