

5529 North 111<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha NE 68164-2179  
[abyndon@yahoo.com](mailto:abyndon@yahoo.com)  
402-212-7083

July 4, 2022

Ms. Lindsay Witt-Swanson, Associate Director  
Bureau of Sociology Research  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
907 Oldfather Hall  
P.O. Box 880325  
Lincoln NE 68588-0325

Dear Ms. Witt-Swanson:

I am writing regarding developing outcomes and output for the organizations related to African Americans in Nebraska. About a year ago, there was a planned Zoom meeting dealing with expelling African Americans in elementary grades in the Omaha Plantation Schools. The Malcolm X Memorial Foundation was taking the lead in this endeavor. I logged on, and apparently, the meeting was canceled. It was not rescheduled to my knowledge. I wrote the staff member to keep me informed on other developments regarding contacting the African American community. There was no response to my email and correspondence.

I received a letter dated June 27, 2022. My concerns are the mentality regarding addressing sexual orientation in research when there is no viable track record dealing with racial research or group. When I contacted the staff member, she indicated they did not have a transgender person on staff, so they went out and recruited someone who is currently part of their team. I asked if similar considerations were given to African Americans or People of Color. She indicated they had an all-white staff or team. How is that possible in a state with 20 percent of the population being People of Color, particularly in Omaha, where the population is 33 percent?

Each year I pay my federal, state, and property taxes. Nevertheless, when one examines the making of these apartheid or white supremacy departments, there appears to be no significant research contact with the African American community. Do you have any studies that focus on African Americans or People of Color in Nebraska?

When someone asks about the physical characteristics of a group or individuals in the survey, there is an expectation that the research will utilize helpful information to help that group. How is that possible when there is no warm handoff of that data for the policy or administrative changes? Please define the outcomes or inputs from such surveys.

I worked in Douglas County Administration which is packed full of Trumpism personalities, as indicated by their policies regarding the treatment of the African American community. A survey was shared with me where they were asking the youth in the DCYC (kiddie Jail) about their sexual orientation. I shared with my colleagues that unless youth were allowed to engage in sexual behaviors within the jails or advocate against bullying within the system, they were exposing the child to additional harm. If you can't address the apparent or visible situations, why are we moving into uncharted waters for the university? A poorly planned research or limited mentality contributes to the challenges we face in our community and state. This also illustrates significant confidential safeguards in dealing with racial individuals from our community, as indicated by the disparities in sentencing and services.

Given the university's history, challenges over the years dealing with the hostile racial climate on campuses, and lack of natural advocates for African Americans, I encourage you to host focus meetings and find demographic information that would result in significant changes in our apartheid state and public institutions.

My records indicated you did not respond to my correspondence addressed to you last year, dated July 18, 2021 (Enclosed). If you answered, it was not noted in my university officials' correspondence repository. I raised serious issues for consideration if changes are for the quality of research coming from the academic departments and institutions in Nebraska.

Three questions undergirded this correspondence:

1. Do you have ongoing contacts in the African American community, and what is derived from those engagements?
2. Do we have any semblance of research that other scholars can build upon to advance the reduction of disparities in Nebraska?
3. Would the department be open to improving its racial makeup staff that might help scholars to consider factors such as race and social-economic class in their research?

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A'Jamal-Rashad Byndon  
NebrasASKA Voices Panel Member

A'Jamal, Advocates & Associates  
Malcolm X Memorial Foundation

(Enclosures)