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USRA STATEMENT DENOUNCING RACISM

Scientific discovery is blind to race, color, religion, and so many other human characteristics that comprise the diversity and commonality of all people. Unfortunately, society is not blind to these characteristics. The systemic racism against Black people to which we all now bear witness has no place in our country, and no place in the institutions that strive to advance discovery, knowledge, and human understanding.

Developing our nation's scientific and technical workforce is a central part of our mission at the Universities Space Research Association. To achieve this, we are committed to increasing opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for underrepresented and underserved communities everywhere. That cannot occur in a palpable climate of fear, stoked by racial injustice and the violation of civil rights.

USRA stands in solidarity with the Black community as an ally in the fight against systemic racism, racial injustice, and discrimination in all its forms. We embrace the richness of diversity as an important asset for USRA and our country, and we value both the similarities and differences of all people.

Through its mission, USRA will do all it can to contribute constructively to these and other challenges besetting our nation.

/s/ Jeffrey A. Isaacson