Dear CFAES Community,

Memphis Police plan on releasing the video this evening of the fatal beating of Tyre Nichols. News reports indicate the images on the video are disturbing, and I am writing to let you know you have the support of our college and the entire Ohio State community.

The release of this video follows multiple acts of horrific violence over the past week. During this period of tragedy and loss, we encourage you to take advantage of the many support resources that the university has to offer.

For students, the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service has a list of resources that are available 24/7. Students can also access support and resources provided by the Student Wellness Center, Student Advocacy Center and the Center for Belonging and Social Change. Faculty and staff can utilize the Employee Assistance Program. The Wexner Medical Center offers the Stress, Trauma and Resilience (STAR) program.

Additionally, the Divided Community Project at the Moritz College of Law has planned a virtual Zoom “office hours” on Wednesday, February 1, from 1-2 p.m. During office hours, you can listen to discussions or ask for a separate consultation in a breakout room with the Divided Community leadership and staff, their Bridge Initiative mediators, and invited law enforcement and community conciliators from around the country.

Along with the resources above, Kathy Lechman, CFAES Assistant Dean and Director for DEI, will be offering office hours via Zoom next week for anyone who would like to join: Monday, January 30 at 9:00 a.m. and Monday, January 30 at 11:00 a.m.

Part of our University Shared Values is a commitment to care and compassion, and we will continue to support one another as Buckeyes. We also affirm our conviction that racism and inequality have no place in CFAES, and our CFAES Principles of Community serve as a base for managing these actions.

Sincerely,
Dean Cathann Kress