



## Washington State Association of School Psychologists

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February 16, 2023

Dear Hyatt Hotels Corporation and Global Inclusion & Diversity Council,

As previously acknowledged by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), the Washington State Association of School Psychologists (WSASP) condemns, on the strongest possible terms, the totally unacceptable and harmful incident that occurred on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, in the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center. This extremely disturbing event directly affected NASP President Dr. Celeste Malone, her friends, colleagues, and family, and by extension the Black community and our own membership.

We recognize that Hyatt staff have been meeting with Dr. Malone and issued a formal apology. We support the requests from NASP and ask that the Hyatt follows through on its promise to:

1. Refund all room charges and fees to Dr. Malone's invited guests to the party
2. Provide direct compensation to Dr. Malone
3. Give substantive donations to the NASP Minority Scholarship Program, Howard University (to be determined by Dr. Malone), and the Black School Psychology Network.

The actions of your hotel security, which included racially-motivated harassment and discrimination, are antithetical to the mission, values, and strategic goals of our organization, which are in intentional alignment with NASP's commitment to working to end racism and discrimination, and being a welcoming, safe space for all marginalized people. The actions last week also contradict your company's stated commitment to a "World of Care" and vision to advance initiatives related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. As indicated on your website you "Are committed to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion and, when we have not lived up to our own expectations, we hold ourselves urgently accountable to do better."

Dr. Malone, along with other Black leaders in school psychology, are doing amazing work, as evidenced by so much of what made this convention exciting and meaningful. The Washington State Association of School Psychologists are outraged that this happened in our convention space, which is supposed to be a place of safety, celebration, and joy. We stand in solidarity with Dr. Malone and the Black community.

Sincerely,

Carrie Suchy, President  
Mikael Olson, President Elect  
Cassie Mulivrana, Immediate Past President  
Washington State Association of School Psychologists  
president@wsasp.org