

**REMARKS AT THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION AND  
FILIPINO STUDENTS ASSOCIATION CULTURAL SHOWCASE FOR A CHANGE  
TO BENEFIT HATE IS A VIRUS COMMUNITY ACTION FUND**

**PRESIDENT JULIO FRENK  
MARCH 27, 2021**

Good evening. Thank you, Pat, and thank you all for being here.

For us at the University of Miami, diversity, equity, and inclusion are part of the fabric that makes us who we are. In fact, we strive to go beyond the concept of DEI to the more difficult—and rewarding—goals of access, belonging, and justice.

As I have said from the moment I began my presidency, each of us is all of us. So when members of our community are hurting, we hurt with them. When they take action, we work in solidarity.

2020 has been a challenging year for all of us, yet for many people of color, the challenges have at times felt overwhelming. When it comes to inequity and violence, long-simmering pain and injustice have come to the surface.

Tonight, we shine a light on our AAPI community—on the incredible talent they contribute to the U and on the fact that we stand with them.

According to a recent analysis, anti-Asian hate crime in 16 of America's largest cities increased 149% in 2020. Gratefully, Miami is not among these cities. Nevertheless, we know the first spike of violence against Asians nationally occurred last March and April amidst a rise in COVID cases and negative stereotyping related to the pandemic.

As a public health professional and a physician, I have seen firsthand the dangers of stigmatizing disease. Not only does it foment hatred—which is itself a threat to physical and mental health—but it slows progress towards solutions.

If the pandemic has taught us nothing else, it has demonstrated that no country is safe until every country is safe. Blaming the “other” for an affliction that is hurting all of us, especially based on innate qualities such as physical traits, leads to dehumanization.

We cannot stay silent when members of our community are judged and attacked as a group because of one aspect of their identity. Instead, each person must be respected and empowered to achieve their dreams.

I want to thank our Asian American Students Association and Filipino Students Association for making tonight possible. When we stand together, Hurricanes are unstoppable. Let us work with that 'Cane spirit to increase awareness and understanding, pursue justice and equity, and ensure that our AAPI community—both on and off campus—are seen, heard, and valued.