



July 17, 2023

Joint Statement on Dr. Kathleen McElroy

(TEXAS) - Last week, Dr. Kathleen McElroy, a nationally renowned journalist and professor, rescinded an appointed tenure position to lead the journalism program at her alma mater, Texas A&M University. This targeted attack on a highly regarded Black professor has shown the hand of how outspoken anti-DEI sentiments can discriminatorily infringe professional hiring procedures under the guise of meritocracy.

Chairman Ron Reynolds (Missouri City) has stated the following:

“Dr. Kathleen McElroy is not only an accomplished professional, but a proud Texan who has represented excellence for our state in the newsroom and the classroom. No sooner after her appointment ceremony had misinformed pressures influenced the prospect of revival for what we can only now imagine would have been a top-tier journalism program at Texas A&M. We said this during the legislative session, these radical anti-DEI campaigns will detrimentally obstruct the future of higher education in Texas and taint the reputations of our competitive top-tier institutions. Dr. McElroy deserves better, and so do the hundreds of other faculty who will see this as a terrifying precedent when SB 18 goes into effect. TXLBC stands alongside our faculty and students in ensuring that our campuses remain environments for innovative leadership and academic excellence.”

President Gary Bledsoe (Texas NAACP) has stated the following:

“Professor Kathleen McElroy has been a tremendous credit to our State and nation. Her handling of news has always been fair and balanced without regard to whether the right or the left would be shown to be the transgressor. Sadly, it appears her race and speech have come to the forefront to deny her an opportunity to take Texas A&M journalism to a new and higher level. This is the kind of censorship or anti-intellectual attitude that we typically find in countries run by autocracies or regressive regimes. Texans should take note, as the City of Denton did in the fracking debate, that it may be Dr. McElroy today but it could be you tomorrow. We support A&M alum Roland Martin’s call to future athletes to seriously vet Texas A&M before coming, and understand the atmosphere that will surround you. The Texas NAACP will have more to say on this topic along with the TxLBC soon.”

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