

The USF Black Community Pledge by Sonja Martin Poole, Ph.D.

I promise,
To help build and maintain the USF Black community,
By mindfully reflecting on the wisdom,
That I have been offered today,
By personally thanking those that offered their knowledge,
And by passing it on to those who were not here.

I promise,
To help build and maintain the USF Black community,
By studying with my peers,
Seeking help when I need it,
Sharing resources,
And not skipping ONE class.

I promise,
To help build and maintain the USF Black community,
By accepting the circle of support offered
By USF professors, staff, alumni, and students,
And in turn,
Being a source of support for others.

I promise,
To help build and maintain the USF Black community,
By contributing to,
At least one Black-themed campus organization,
And by serving as a vocal representative,
In domains where our collective voices and perspectives
Are often completely missing or ignored.

I promise,
To help build and maintain the USF Black community,
By respectfully acknowledging every Black person I see,
On campus and beyond.

I promise,
To say good morning,
Good afternoon,
Good evening,
Hello, hi
Or what's up,
Whenever I cross the path of any Black person

I promise,
To at least smile,
Give a knowing glance,
Or offer "the nod,"
When time or circumstances,
Do not permit me to say something in that moment.

I will do these things,
Because I know,
In order to build and maintain a community,
You have to show love.
Black love.