



NCCJ partners with GCS to rebuild trust at Northwest Guilford High School

NCCJ and GCS are creating a comprehensive plan to address racial tensions in one of Guilford County's largest high schools

Last week, a video of two Northwest Guilford High School students went viral on social media. The video included many hateful and disrespectful statements and a call to violence against Black people. The students said things like "lynch them all" and "put them back in the fields and teach them a lesson." They used the "N-word" multiple times.

In response, school administrators asked NCCJ of the Piedmont Triad to partner with Guilford County Schools' Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion to build out a comprehensive plan to address the racial tensions that both led to and have been fueled by this situation.

Both NCCJ and GCS are committed to working with Northwest to help the school community heal, rebuild trust, and become stronger and more committed than ever to creating a space where all students can feel safe, welcomed, and appreciated.

There is no easy fix. No silver bullet will resolve this complex situation. Rather, we must simultaneously take many different steps in order to embed this work into the school's everyday operations. These steps can include dialogues for student leaders, trainings or workshops for larger segments of the student population, and other programs to help students and teachers find solutions that will work for everyone.

NCCJ has a strong record of leadership in building inclusive environments that allow people from diverse backgrounds to work together successfully. Our youth programming is based on proven, evidence-based practices that directly counteract the ideas and behaviors that lead to bullying and other forms of prejudice and discrimination in our schools. We offer young people tools and support they need to communicate respectfully and effectively with those who are different from them, rather than engaging in bullying or other socially disruptive behaviors.

At Northwest, our goal is to help create a culture and climate where more students will speak up when they hear things that threaten the safety and wellbeing of their peers and will actively work to create the kind of school community that respects and embraces all.

NCCJ of the Piedmont Triad's mission is to build compassionate and just communities free of bias, bigotry, and racism. We are a human relations organization that promotes understanding and respect among all cultures, races and religions through education, dialogue, and advocacy. We believe that every community should become a place of promise with opportunity and justice for all. NCCJ was founded in 1937 as the Greensboro chapter of the national organization. We became an independent 501(c)3 non-profit in 2005.