

June 15, 2020
Charleston, SC

A public statement from PQV Action Network President Tiffany Dayemo, Class of 2011

The PQV Action Network (PAN) is moved by the vast support among alumnae and the Ashley Hall community for our Letter and Call to Action. As alumni of elite private schools lead the way for racial and cultural equity in education internationally in cities like London, New York, Atlanta, Nashville, and even in Charleston, PAN is proud to plant the roots for change at home.

Multiple generations and members of the Ashley Hall community widely support the June 9th Letter and the Call to Action. Currently, almost **200** alumnae, former students, faculty, and parents signatures have signed the Letter and the Call to Action. The signatures span from the Class of 1963 up to our newest alumnae in the Class of 2020.

Although bright, intelligent, and passionate young alumnae lead the way for racial equity and a culture of belongingness at Ashley Hall, the deep cultural divisions are more recent in Ashley Hall's history. Ashley Hall was founded in 1909, but the first black Ashley Hall student did not graduate until **1974**, according to Steve Estes' book *Charleston, in Black and White*. To put that date into perspective, this historic mark in Ashley Hall's story only occurred **18 years** before the Class of 2011 was born.

As such, the alumnae and community backing this change understand the cultural shift needed within Ashley Hall. As President, I can assure that our womxn-led team is confident with our expertise, our deep knowledge as former Ashley Hall students, and our readiness to lead with Ashley Hall in this effort.

Brene Brown defines integrity as “choosing courage over comfort; choosing what is right over what is fun, fast, or easy; and choosing to practice our values rather than simply professing them.” A bright future lies ahead of us, one filled with integrity and hope.

PQV and best wishes.

- *Tiffany Dayemo '11, President of the PQV Action Network*