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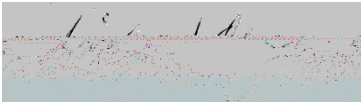
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Being a student in the pioneer leadership program, I think it is really important that we address the injustice in the name of the "Pioneer Leadership Program". This name has represented one of the most respected programs at the University of Denver, and still never really represented the students that make up its heart and soul. PLP students come from all over the world and from all kinds of backgrounds but are expected to use an image and idea of colonization to be their identity. The same students who have to say they are students of the Pioneer Leadership Program also come from cultures that were harmed, hurt and sometimes destroyed by Pioneers. Those students carry the weight of this conflict into classrooms that teach about communal leadership and empathy. Classrooms that do not show that same empathy towards their students from different places and cultures. I believe that if we want to be a program that really practices what we preach then we shouldn't have a name that represents the colonization and oppression of the identities of our students. I understand that "Pioneer" can mean other things but when there are literally thousands of names that can be the name of this program, why would we keep the one hurts its students? If we are really a program that believes what it says, then it's our job do make this a program with a name that students are proud of, not one that hurts them.

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As an Indigenous student, I am proud of my program that we are taking active steps towards making this program that which was promised to its students; those students whom to this program they have given so much. I am proud to say I belong to this program that carries such renowned across this campus and community. I am proud to belong here, and I am

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Our nation is facing some of the most challenging times it has seen in decades as we battle two different pandemics- COVID-19 and humanity. Pioneer Leadership Program has always put at the forefront of their students minds to challenge the process even if that process is fighting

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As a student of the pioneer leadership program I ask myself what my role as a white student in a conversation about diversity and inclusion is. This summer I have seen the very real consequences of white privilege that I before only knew in a classroom setting. I have seen the divides of our society tear apart compassion and understanding, leaving a lingering wound on our communities. As a student of this program I think that this is one of the most important times for PLP to exist. With everything happening across this country, and across the world, we need to teach students to be leaders with the compassion and understanding that we have lost. This program has the chance to help communities during this time of uncertainty with things from COVID-19 to racial injustice. We have the students willing and resources necessary to be more impactful than any other time in history. There is only one thing that would get in the way of that impact. Ourselves. We as a program need to work together to make this program something that can realize the potential of its students in a way that doesn't exploit them. Our name "The Pioneer Leadership Program" does not properly represent our students and the impact that we want to have on people in this country and across the globe. We are supposed to be leaders, so now we need to lead and show our program, our school and people across the world that a real leader never stops making themselves better. My white privilege is not an excuse to be compliant in our name hurting my friends and peers and I will stand with them to make this program one that we can all be proud of and one that shows the world who we really are.

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I am a person of color in the Pioneer Leadership Program. As a rising senior, I have

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When I think of the Pioneer Leadership Program, I think about all the work that we did and that students still do in their communities. I think of all the time I spent learning about