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Clemson University has a long history of racial discrimination that is very evident on our campus. We are making great strides to rid our University of this discrimination, but it isn't enough. A lot of our campus was built by slaves, which is a fact that the University doesn't broadcast. Clemson likes to ignore its past and refuses to embrace the fact that there was a time when this was a school full of white men that discriminated against people of color. Our minority population still is very low to this day, but it doesn't stop Clemson from advertising the University like we are diverse group of students. As a University we need to embrace the fact that in the past our University has been racist was built by people who were advocates of the slave trade. We can only become a more diverse University once we address our past and make greater strides toward equality. Social change seems very difficult when you are in the rural south, but I have seen and met tons of changemakers on this campus who are dedicated to fixing this injustice. The administration's refusal to accept Clemson's past is only one roadblock to equality; the student body is a whole other roadblock. Many of the students at Clemson are inclusive and promote diversity at Clemson, but there is a subset of people who were taught racism as children and that has propagated throughout their college life. One of the most difficult barriers to any social change is getting people to change their perceptions and open their mind to other points of views. I am no expert on racial discrimination, but I strongly hold to the pillars of equality and justice.

Students are already taking steps to reverse this racial discrimination by creating sororities and fraternities dedicated to promoting inclusion and diversity and we have clubs for a large number of cultures around the world. Our student government has also made great strides toward diversity and inclusion, such as sending out statements about that the student body does not support the wearing/having of a confederate flag on campus. This has been a major issue in the south because many think the confederate flag represents history, but also it is not something that we are proud of and should not be respected as the American flag is.

As a part of the Clemson Undergraduate Student Government Sustainability Committee, I plan to promote social sustainability during my time on the committee. Our committee has been very environmentally focused as of late, which may be because many members are not aware of the areas of sustainability, but I hope to introduce the idea of social sustainability to them and work to brainstorm ways we can promote social sustainability on campus as it applies to preventing racial discrimination. There was an influential video made by a former Clemson student called "See the Stripes" that looks at Clemson's history of racial discrimination and how Clemson needs to embrace its past. I hope to circulate this video more and get students to understand the meaning behind it.

My action plan:

