

Denouncing Acts of Hate

September 28, 2020

Dear colleagues,

We are shocked and dismayed that two Catholic churches in the El Cajon area serving our area's vibrant Middle Eastern community, Saint Peters Chaldean Catholic Cathedral and Our Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, were vandalized over the weekend. Messages of hate are particularly heinous at such religious institutions, symbols of love and devotion in the community.

We have many students and employees who attend these churches, and we share in your grief and anguish. We stand strong with you; an attack on any of us is an attack on all of us.

We emphatically denounce this horrific act. Any attempt by those who would seek to divide us only causes us to stay strong together in sending the message that this behavior will not be tolerated.

We once again affirm our commitment <u>racial equity</u> at our college district, and our support for all who choose to learn and work here.

Sincerely,

Lynn Ceresino Neault, Ed.D. Chancellor, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District

Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, Ed.D. President, Grossmont College

Julianna Barnes, Ed.D. President, Cuyamaca College