



August 19, 2021

### **A Special Message of Support**

Dear Colleagues,

We are moved by the powerful images and accounts of events unfolding in Afghanistan and Haiti. In Afghanistan, thousands are trying to flee the country to escape political turmoil. The capital city of Kabul was in chaos as events quickly evolved. In Haiti, a devastating earthquake has killed more than 1,900 people and injured almost 10,000. Many more have been left without homes and are trying to survive in makeshift shelters soaked by Tropical Storm Grace.

As part of the global community, we are all influenced by tragedies such as these. Some of our community members are even more directly affected. Our students come to us from a wide range of countries, and some are struggling right now with worries over loved ones directly impacted by these tragedies thousands of miles away.

As we continue to navigate unprecedented challenges here at home, we are concerned for the residents of these countries and their loved ones, some of whom are our students, families, or friends. We may feel compelled to do something, but not know exactly what we can do. If you know someone affected, now is a great time to reach out and offer support—even if it's just a "how are you doing?" Several agencies are also directly assisting those in need. Below are some resources.

#### **AFGHANISTAN:**

- [International Rescue Committee](#) is offering support to Afghans in crisis.
- [Donate to Afghanistan | International Committee of the Red Cross \(ICRC\) \(icrc.org\)](#) has been present in Afghanistan since 1987. ICRC staff have worked to protect and assist those in need in Taliban-controlled areas for years.
- [You Can Change Lives with a Kind Gift | Donate to Help Refugees \(unrefugees.org\)](#) USA for UNHCR helps and protects refugees and people displaced by violence, conflict and persecution.

## HAITI:

- [UNICEF](#) is working with the Haitian government and humanitarian aid groups. Medical kits to support 30,000 people have already been delivered, and medical, health and sanitation supplies are on the way. Donate here to help support that effort.
- [Project HOPE](#) is a nonprofit sending out an emergency response team to help the country.
- [Humanity & Inclusion](#) has worked in Haiti since 2008 responding to natural disasters, and is launching efforts specifically in rehabilitation, mental health and psychological needs in response to the earthquake.
- [Hope for Haiti](#), consisting of Haitian doctors, nurses and other health professionals, has a stockpile of emergency kits ready to distribute.

## EVENTS:

Both colleges are also planning events related to developments in Afghanistan:

- The Grossmont College Health & Wellness Center and Student Affairs will facilitate “Reflections on Afghanistan,” an open discussion and reflection around the current events in Afghanistan from 2 – 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 19. Connect through Zoom 974 3120 2195.
- The Cuyamaca College Student Affairs department and Cuyamaca Cares program are planning a series of events called, “Coming Together: In Solidarity of Our Afghani Community and Their Families” on Fridays, in-person, on Aug. 27, Sept. 10, and Sept. 24 in the Cross Cultural Center (Student Center, Bldg. I) or via Zoom 894 0042 0060 on Fridays, Sept. 3, Sept. 17, and Oct. 1.

We are proud of how our community has responded during these challenging times, and know we will continue to be there for one another in the months ahead.

With gratitude,

Lynn Ceresino Neault, Ed.D., Chancellor

Julianna Barnes, Ed.D., President, Cuyamaca College

Denise Whisenhunt, J.D., President, Grossmont College