



## A Special Message: Standing Against Racism and Hate

May 17, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

We wanted to take a moment to express our outrage and sadness over the latest senseless acts of racially and politically motivated violence last weekend in Buffalo, New York and Orange County. We extend our deepest condolences to those whose lives were taken, as well as those injured and traumatized, and their loved ones.

It is unacceptable that racism and hate continue to take innocent lives across this country and we cannot let these horrific acts of violence become routine.

We must call out and condemn violence and injustice intended to harm people of color and historically marginalized groups. We stand with our Black and African American community, and our Asian American community, which were so heinously targeted. Equity and social justice are central to who we are, as reflected in the colleges' updated vision and mission statements and many updated board policies. We are committed to building an anti-racist culture that recognizes, names and eliminates racism in all forms. We cannot emphasize it enough: racism has no place in our community, or anywhere else in a civilized society.

All students, employees, and community members are urged to report bias or hate incidents. We must continue to support those experiencing hate and violence, no matter the motive, to ensure a safe campus environment for all. Targeting anyone based on race, religion, sexual orientation, immigration status, gender expression, or in any other circumstance, is unacceptable.

Please continue to be there for one another, even if it is just a quick check-in or hello.

The below resources are also available to those seeking support:

- Grossmont College:
  - Free mental health appointments are available at the Grossmont College Health and Wellness Center. Please call 619-644-7192 to schedule an appointment or visit the [Health and Wellness Center webpage](#).
- Cuyamaca College:
  - Personal counseling is available at the Cuyamaca College Health and Wellness Center. Please call 619-660-4200, email [cuyamaca.pc@gcccd.edu](mailto:cuyamaca.pc@gcccd.edu) or visit in person. More information is also available through the Health and Wellness Center's [Personal Counseling webpage](#).

In Solidarity,

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

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

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