

Office of the President

March 19, 2021

Dear Pirate Crew.

I am reaching out to you all to express my deep regret for the hate and discrimination that our Asian American and Pacific (AAPI) Islander colleagues and friends are experiencing. The mass murder in Atlanta, Georgia this week is a horrendous reminder that we, as a nation, have a long way to go to create a safe community for all people. I am particularly saddened to learn that many of our own students, faculty, and classified professionals have experienced discrimination and hate here in our community and at our college. This behavior is unacceptable, and we as a campus need to stand up to those who mistreat and harm our AAPI friends and colleagues.

I have developed a webpage to clearly identify where I stand on Ventura College becoming an AntiRacist college. This page provides information on our efforts related to Social Justice, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (SIDE). I am also in the process of initiating a SIDE Advisory group to the President. Issues like hate and discrimination against AAPI and all BIPOC citizens will be at the forefront of this group's work. I am looking to others to collaborate with me on how we can better respond to all matters that threaten equity – of all types – at Ventura College. More information on the SIDE Advisory Group to the President will be coming soon.

With deep sadness,

President



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AAPI Resources:

Student Health Center with an AAPI Mental Health Counselor

LifeMatters- Mental Health Counseling for Employees

Asian Mental Health Collective

Asian Mental Health Project

AAPI Mental Health Resources

AAPI Toolkit

Stop Asian American Pacific Islander Hate (reporting)

Bystander Intervention Training to stop anti-Asian American and xenophobic harassment

United Nations High Commission for Human Rights to #FightRacism

Proposed COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act