Message from the Office of University Diversity and Inclusion

Dear campus community,

In these uncertain times, as the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak forces us apart physically, it becomes even more important for us to embrace one another as unique, valued and important members of the Cal Poly community.

The COVID-19 outbreak has disrupted and ended the lives of people worldwide, not discriminating by race or national origin. The pandemic has given rise to fear and uncertainty and some have responded to it with hate, bias, and xenophobia directed toward Asian people and people of Asian descent.

It is important now more than ever that we come together in support of one another and stand firm against racism, intolerance and discrimination and in support of our values of Love, Empathy, Respect. We are all one Mustang community and we express our unwavering support for our Asian and Pacific Islander communities and all international faculty, staff and students.

A progressive university not only speaks about diversity, equity and inclusion, but demonstrates its support of these ideals through actions. We want you to know that we are developing resources and implementing strategies that will further educate our students about xenophobia and the impact it has on others. The Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology will also be working with faculty to provide a workshop focused on strategies for responding to incidents of hate, bias or xenophobia in their online classes. In addition, the College of Liberal Arts and the Ethnic Studies Department will be engaging faculty in a Teach-On about COVID-19 and issues of racism and xenophobia. The Cross-Cultural Centers will be creating opportunities to reinforce community and to engage in healing circles. Please check out the OUDI and COVID-19 websites periodically for additional resources, activities and learning events that are taking place in response to this challenging and difficult time.

In addition to those mentioned, other offices are here to support you regardless of where you are located during this virtual spring quarter. To learn more about the campus’ response and the resources available to help foster an inclusive and equitable university, please visit https://coronavirus.calpoly.edu/inclusion-resources.

Students requiring basic needs resources, health and well-being services, or other general assistance, please visit https://coronavirus.calpoly.edu/student-care-resources.

In closing, I want to express sincere appreciation for everything that each of you is doing to uphold the safety, health and well-being of our Cal Poly community, in fostering student success, and in addressing bias when it arises. We remain strong in our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, and we are Cal Poly Proud.

Sincerely,

Jozí De Leon, Ph.D
Vice President, Office of University Diversity and Inclusion

Emergency Operations Center
Anti-hate Messaging Task Force
Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo