

From: Gribbons, Barry C
Subject: Campus Update
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Dear Monarchs,

In this week's campus update, I would like to follow up on my message condemning the killing of George Floyd and the impact that it is having on our African American students, staff, faculty, and administrators. Several members of our community shared with me their experiences and perspectives and I am deeply appreciative of them and the opportunity to promote greater understanding.

It is important to acknowledge pain and trauma that the injustice of George Floyd's killing and the cumulative effects of a history of racial inequities and systemic oppression are having on our African American students, staff, faculty, and administrators.

It should not have taken this tragedy to call our attention to these injustices. But let us not fail to act now. We need to be allies of our African American community members. We need to ensure that Valley College is a safe space, listening carefully to our African American students, staff, faculty, and administrators and ensuring that they know we stand with them.

Hereafter let us look for opportunities to promote understanding and further the cause of justice.

We already had several specific efforts planned with this specific focus. I will continue to ask for feedback to expand on these efforts.

Also, please be mindful of the impact of the compounding traumatic variables that our Black and African American students and campus community are feeling, especially now as we move into finals week. For our faculty members, we will be sending out a message soon with additional guidance on incompletes and EWs, and how to support students during this difficult time.

I also want to remind our community of resources available. The LACCD Employee Assistance Program is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (800) 327-0449, or visit the [MHN webpage](#) (company code: laccd). The LA County Department of Mental Health also has a 24/7 Access Line which you can reach by calling (800) 854-7771 or texting "LA" to 741741.

To the entire campus community, please join me in this expression of support to our African American students, staff, faculty, and administrators, and in our rejection of racism. Let us all look for ways of uniting as we move forward. Also, please join me during tomorrow's campus briefing when I will ask that we begin with a moment of silence for the loss of George Floyd's life and the pain and trauma that is reverberating from it.

Highest regards,

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