



California State University
SAN MARCOS

OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

Monday, Aug. 14, 2017

Over the weekend, chaos and violence overwhelmed the streets of Charlottesville, Va., during an assemblage of white supremacists, who attempted to spread a message of intolerance and hate. I was deeply troubled at the racism, bigotry and anti-Semitism that led to the deaths of three individuals, as well as the injury of dozens of others. Please join me in sending deep sympathies to the victims, survivors, their loved ones and family members.

This is a time to speak with a united voice to condemn white supremacy, and to work together to expand and accelerate our collective efforts to oppose hate and dismantle systems of oppression.

We must also reject the false narratives that equate those promoting the violence of bigotry and oppression with peaceful protesters who march for equity and justice. We know that this tragedy in Charlottesville is not an isolated incident, and it is important that the Cal State San Marcos community continue to stand in solidarity with all who oppose hate and oppression, and promote social justice.

As we prepare to welcome nearly 17,000 new and returning students to our campus, we must remain resolute in our commitment to address hate whenever it arises. I want every member of our CSUSM family to know that you are welcome. Moving forward into the fall semester, we must stay true to our ideals of diversity, inclusion and mutual respect, never hesitating to speak out against those who would seek to divide us.

Students seeking support may reach out to Cougar Care Network at 760-750-7627 or Student Health and Counseling Services, the Cross-Cultural Center, the Gender Equity Center, the Latin@ Center, the Black Student Center, Student Life and Leadership and the Dean of Students Office. In addition, The Office of University Ombuds offers confidential and neutral assistance for students as well as faculty and staff. The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is also available for employees at 800-367-7474.

I know that in the weeks ahead there will be many opportunities to continue the important dialogue and healing process surrounding the tragedy that took place this weekend. As these conversations take place, may we remember that as a public

institution of higher education, our first priority must always be providing a safe and welcoming living, learning and working environment for every member of our CSUSM family. As such, we will continue to work together to protect everyone's rights of free speech as well as to maintain an environment free from harassment or discrimination.

Let us demonstrate our commitment to these values through our daily efforts to be a welcoming, inclusive and just campus community, and to actively promote equity and social justice in all of the classrooms, communities and workplaces we reach as students, educators and alumni.

Together, we are united with all who promote social justice. Together, we are CSUSM.

Sincerely
Karen S. Haynes, Ph.D.
President