

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT/SUPERINTENDENT
PRESIDENT'S CAMPUS UPDATES



March 17, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Cerritos College joins community leaders and advocates across the country in condemning yesterday's senseless shootings in Atlanta, Georgia. We also wish to acknowledge the pain and suffering that victims and their loved ones are experiencing.

This tragedy, along with other recent acts of violence, continues to shed light on the historic and pervasive problem of Anti-Asian violence and discrimination in the United States. Between March 2020 and December 2020, [Stop AAPI Hate](#) received nearly 3,000 firsthand accounts of anti-Asian hate incidents across the country. **Nearly 44% of all incidents reported to Stop AAPI Hate have come from California**, and no other state in the continental United States has a larger Asian population than our own.

We also recognize that Asian Americans experience more discrimination than these numbers indicate. A [recent article from NPR](#) suggests that underreporting of hate incidents is due to a combination of several factors, ranging from language and cultural barriers to a lack of trust in law enforcement.

In May of last year, the Cerritos College Board of Trustees [expressed its denouncement](#) of xenophobia and anti-Asian sentiment. As leaders and trusted professionals in our community, we have a responsibility to stand against systemic racism and acts of violence. We must continue the challenging work of addressing systemic inequities to promote understanding, caring, and equity.

As a campus, we continue the work to advance racial justice in a number of ways, which include building racial equity awareness and analytical capacity across campus, equipping one another with the skills, tools, strategies, resources, and relationships to be effective leaders and advocates in the fight for racial justice in education, and by taking both internal and external actions to combat institutional racism and advance racial justice.

One action I would like to ask you to take is to familiarize yourself with the information on the [211 LA web page](#), which includes a [Hate Incident Report Form](#). Reporting hate incidents is an important part of our work as advocates. As the website states, it is essential to report hate incidents, which could include any act of verbal or physical aggression, refusal of service, bullying, or intimidation of any kind that is motivated by hostile prejudice. We cannot do anything to stop hate crimes and incidents unless we know about them so that victims do not suffer in silence.

Jose

Jose L. Fierro, D.V.M., Ph.D.
President/Superintendent