

June 1, 2020

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,

Our colleges and the people living in our communities, state and nation are hurting. We are deeply saddened and appalled by the senseless, brutal murder of George Floyd. It is a stark reminder of all lives lost to system racism. The news and videos of these lost lives have further thrust the issues of injustice, racism and hatred into our collective view and consciousness.

These issues have been with us for a long time. This college is not new to this fight. The work done over the decades, and the work over the last 90 days speak to who we are as a community of colleges. We can make a difference. In fact, as students and educators we have an immutable responsibility to learn from the past, and to create a bright new vision for the communities and civilizations of the future. These efforts must continue, and be joined with the hard work of others. We must continue to support our friends and neighbors. I am certain that we can begin by being compassionate, supportive and fully inclusive in our programs and in our actions. Let us affirm our commitment to an intentional and unwavering effort to see one another as true partners, consistent with the concepts of kindness, respect, collaboration and accountability — and a core value of Inclusiveness. At RCCD, we have declared and continue to affirm our institutional and personal values. First among them is our united commitment to inclusiveness. “The District embraces diversity in all its forms and endeavors to create a fair and equitable climate for its students and workforce”. We are firm in our stance toward inclusivity. We demand justice, and will seek it through the expression of our core values.

We encourage our scholars and educators to study and seek for a better understanding of the issues that divide us, and those that unite us. Our families and children deserve our best efforts to eliminate the prejudices, racism and discrimination that plague our society. We join with our colleagues from the communities around us and pledge our commitment to a “new normal” free of bigotry, privilege and oppression. While we are watching the news and mourning for those who are hurt and persecuted today, we commit to work together tomorrow and in the future to sustain peace and justice.

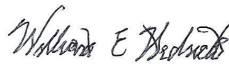
Sincerely,



Mary Figueroa
Board President



Virginia Blumenthal
Board Trustee



Bill Hedrick
Board Vice President



Tracey Vackar
Board Trustee



Jose Alcala
Board Secretary



Wolde-Ab Isaac, Ph.D.
Chancellor