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WEST

August 7, 2019

Dear LACCD Colleagues,

Once again, our nation has come under attack from senseless gun violence by cowards motivated by racial bias, bigotry and hatred, resulting in the mass killings and shootings of innocent victims in Gilroy, El Paso and Dayton. We send our heartfelt sympathies to the wounded and to the grieving families. We stand strong with the communities and their leaders who struggle to restore normalcy and confidence. Our flags will remain at half-staff until sunset Thursday in honor and memory of the deceased.

Within the Los Angeles Community College District, campus safety for all faculty, students, staff and visitors will always be a top priority for me, the Board of Trustees, the college presidents and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The LACCD Community College Bureau of the Sheriff's Department includes dedicated law enforcement professionals who are expertly trained, vigilant and ready to respond to all emergencies, threats or suspicious activities.

The District and the colleges routinely work with Sheriff's Department personnel on emergency response training throughout the year. For example, at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College, we recently conducted comprehensive Active Shooter training and emergency public information exercises. Similar trainings are scheduled to occur this year at our other colleges as well. The link included here to this short video also reminds us of what to do in the event of an active shooter incident on campus, <http://lasd.org/active-shooting.html>.

In addition, we are making significant progress on the installation of new door locks at our colleges to increase protection should we need to initiate a lock-down scenario. Over the summer, we diligently worked to replace more than 1,100 classroom door locks with shelter-in-place hardware. Phase I of this security initiative should be completed in September and plans to replace the hardware on the remaining classroom doors will begin this fall.

While the District and the Sheriff's Department are doing everything possible to keep everybody safe, we all need to be actively involved in personal safety. We need everybody to remember—and engage in—"See Something, Say Something" efforts. Always be alert to your surroundings and if you see anything suspicious, immediately contact the Sheriff's Station for your college location. Calling these numbers directly is the fastest way to receive an immediate, local response.

Meanwhile, if you recognize any of the following warning signs being exhibited by someone, notify a supervisor or law enforcement immediately:

- Explicit verbal statements, or social media posts, about killing/harming someone
- Sudden social isolation from friends, family or co-workers
- Drastic changes in appearance, work or academic performance, or bizarre behavior
- Sending disturbing messages (i.e. texts, e-mails, letters) to students/staff/faculty
- Suicidal thoughts, paranoia, depression or nervousness
- Making statements supporting violence or identifying with others who engaged in past violence

Do not let the moment pass without taking action and remaining vigilant. Please also make sure to take care of yourself. It is understandable to be worried about the gun violence that is prevalent in our society and I encourage you to seek out counseling through our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) if you need to talk to someone about your concerns.

These are indeed disturbing times and we must work together to keep our students, visitors, college and district personnel safe and free from harm.

Thank you for everything you do to help create and sustain safe and hospitable learning and work environments.

Sincerely,



Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Chancellor

Copy:
LACCD Board of Trustees
College Presidents
LASD Community College Bureau

Phone numbers for Sheriff's Substations at LACCD colleges and facilities follows. Program the numbers you might need into cell phone today. If you do call to report an emergency, remember to remain calm, speak clearly, be able to identify your location and keep your answers short.

District Headquarters

(213) 622-3770

City

(323) 662-5276

East

(323) 265-8800

Harbor

(310) 233-4600

Mission

(818) 364-7843

Pierce

(818) 719-6450

Southwest

(323) 241-5269

Trade-Tech

(213) 763-3600

Valley

(818) 947-2911

West

(310) 287-4314

South Gate Campus

(323) 357-6222

Van de Kamp Center

(323) 953-4000, ext. 3509