



Feb. 2, 2017

## Reaffirmation of SJCC Values and Commitment to ALL students

Dear SJCC Campus Community:

I want to welcome you back for what I know will be a great spring semester full of opportunity, growth, and achievement for all of us. Much has changed, however, since the end of last semester. You, no doubt, have seen some of the executive actions issued by the White House regarding immigration and refugee bans, in particular. Many civil and human rights organizations, our state's elected officials in Washington D.C., and our elected officials in Sacramento are challenging these actions via all legal channels.

Nevertheless, many of our international students and students with unresolved immigration status are, understandably, feeling a sense of fear and uncertainty. I want to take the opportunity to reaffirm San Jose City College's positive and heartfelt support for all of our international students, Dreamers, DACA, undocumented students, and those struggling to resolve their immigration status. It's also important to note that, unfortunately, the latest executive action may adversely and disproportionately impact members of the Islamic faith. I want to be clear that religious intolerance has no place on this campus or in our community and we will stand with our Muslim faculty, staff, students, and their families during this challenging time.

This is a stressful time for many of our students, and staff, in particular for those who may also be managing personal and family matters related to the executive orders. Our school's resources are available to help ALL students, regardless of legal status, with the challenges they face in light of the president's most recent executive orders. I know that our exceptional faculty and staff are concerned, too, as they are dedicated to the success of ALL students. For this reason, I am encouraging us to work closely with students who may be experiencing additional stress and a heightened level of anxiety as they attempt to balance their academic, personal, and family commitments during these uncertain times.

We don't know what will happen next, but regardless of what the immediate future holds, it's important for all of us to treat one another with compassion, dignity, and respect. I want to emphasize that San Jose City College is a safe and welcoming place for everyone to learn and grow. We will continue to fulfill this commitment by demonstrating as well as defending our campus values of opportunity, equity, and social justice.

I want to remind everyone of the following campus services that can provide you with valuable information and assistance:

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:** Rm. SC-204 [internationalprogram@sjcc.edu](mailto:internationalprogram@sjcc.edu)  
Phone: 408-288-3751

**ALMASS:** Advocacy for Latin@ Migrant Access Support and Services (located in the Counseling Department) [Fabio.Gonzales@sjcc.edu](mailto:Fabio.Gonzales@sjcc.edu) x3168; Olga Morales-Anaya x3902; or Valentin Garcia, x3804

Thank you and I look forward to continuing to engage the entire campus community as we work together to address the changing needs of our students, faculty and staff while celebrating the strength and diversity of our multicultural community.

Byron

President  
San Jose City College