



Office of the President

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Hello Chargers:

As I write this email, the guilty verdicts have just been read in the trial for the murder of George Floyd. For many of our students and employees, this trial was nothing less than a measure of whether or not the racism embedded deep within our laws and values would prevail. We can breathe a sigh of relief that, this time, justice for all has been served. No matter what the verdict was today, at Cypress College we remain committed to our pursuit of racial justice, becoming an anti-racist institution, and being unapologetic in our assurance that our campus community will care for and be there for our students and employees.

As Ibram Kendi stated, *“there is no neutrality in the racism struggle...One either allows racial inequities to persevere, as a racist, or confronts racial inequities, as an antiracist. There is no in between safe space of ‘not racist.’ The claim of ‘not racist’ neutrality is a mask for racism.”* We are grateful for the work so many have done and continue to do at our campus to ensure this justice prevails today and every day.



DEI Awareness Month: April has been designated as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Awareness Month for the California Community Colleges, and our NOCCCD Board of Trustees has adopted a resolution in support of it. Our local efforts to improve the lives and experience of students and employees also

continues, and we are grateful for the leadership of so many on campus including: BFSA Taskforce, Equity Alliance Taskforce, Academic Senate, Guided Pathway and Title V Completion Teams, Professional Development Committee, DEI Committee, District Racial Justice and Equity Committee (RJEC), SEA Committee, Caring Campus Initiative, and all of you across campus who have participated in developing a DEI Framework during the three Equity Retreats conducted since November — to name just a few. I am proud of the commitment our community has made to make true and lasting changes on our campus, while being mindful that there is still much to be accomplished.

To add to this month's work, April 26-30 will be celebrated as **Black Student Success Week**, and we will be highlighting the accomplishments of past and present African American/Black students, along with other events planned for that week. Please look for these updates as we feature an exemplary student each day.

In the spirit of our campus commitment to diversity and inclusion, please note the dates for **Ramadan and the Eid ul-Fitr Holiday**, observed by Muslim students, faculty, and staff. Ramadan is a special month (this year from April 12-May 12) in which Muslims abstain from food and drinks from sunrise to sunset and increase their prayers and charity. At the conclusion of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate with the Eid ul-Fitr Holiday, which is estimated to fall on **Thursday, May 13**. We are asking faculty to be aware that some students may reach out to request alternative opportunities to make up or submit course assignments, projects, quizzes, and/or exams in a timely manner on that date. We appreciate your willingness to be open to this discussion with your student.

Thank you for coming to the end of yet another spring being almost fully remote. We long for the day when hugs are plentiful, and smiles and laughter don't occur behind a mask, but until then, we thank you for taking this journey together.

Buen Cypress,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "JoAnna Schilling".

JoAnna Schilling, Ph.D.
President, Cypress College



[Buen Cypress! We Take This Journey Together.](#)
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