



eMEMO

Office of the Superintendent / President
Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D.

CITRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT 1000 W. Foothill Blvd., Glendora, CA 91741-1899

A MESSAGE TO THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY

Email to faculty and staff – June 2, 2020 at 6 p.m. PT

Dear Citrus College Colleagues,

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you as our nation experiences yet another painful, sad and angering case of racial injustice with the recent death of George Floyd. So tragic and horrific is this incident that many across the nation have turned to peaceful protest to express their pain, hurt and anger, and to call attention to this injustice. Unfortunately, at times, this peaceful protest has been met with unrest which has often turned violent and unsafe.

On behalf of the members of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees, I extend our deepest support and commitment to our Black students, faculty, staff, and community members. While we may not know your pain and hurt firsthand, we recognize and acknowledge the insidious nature of social inequality and racism in our society, and nation at large.

As a community college leader, I am reminded of the power of education to enlighten, educate and transform individual lives and society. Now, more than ever, the Citrus College community is challenged to uphold the core values of education and of our institution. We are further called upon to role model and educate those students in our charge in an effort to promote social justice and instill the core ideals which we as an institution value.

As I realize that the recent unrest in our state and nation has caused upset amongst our students, faculty and staff, I want to let you know of resources which are available to provide support during this time.

Students are encouraged to utilize our remote mental health services offered through the Student Health Center by visiting www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrv/healthcntr. In addition to making an appointment, students will find information on resources offered through the county, as well as telehealth resources offered through the University of Southern California.

For eligible Citrus College employees, I urge you to utilize the college's employee assistance program, EASE, offered through the Los Angeles County Office of Education by calling 800-882-1341. Learn more about these services at www.lacoe.edu/Home/EASE. You can also refer to your individual health insurance plan for additional, covered resources.

Once again, while I am saddened to write to you under these circumstances, I take refuge in knowing that we have the tools, through education, to impart change. While 2020 has presented us with some

unprecedented challenges, and now a tragic and sad period in our history as a nation, I am confident that we will continue to be of service to others, be informed citizens, and show kindness and compassion. I am hopeful that through education, we will transform our society to a just and equitable one.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Geraldine M. Perri". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President