



TACOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**STATEMENT DENOUNCING XENOPHOBIA  
AND  
ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT**

*July 10, 2020*

The Board of Trustees of Tacoma Community College is committed to our core values of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. We are very troubled by what is happening to Asian Pacific Islanders in our community and country. Asian/Pacific Islander communities are suffering acts of discrimination, hate crimes, and microaggressions due to fears of COVID-19. Some national leaders have used divisive and inflammatory rhetoric, referring at times to the COVID-19 virus as the "Chinese virus," and "Kung-Flu".

Such rhetoric is inaccurate and stigmatizing, tends to incite fear, promote xenophobic discrimination and violence, and puts Asians/Pacific Islanders at risk of harm and retaliation. As the COVID-19 virus has spread, numerous Asians/Pacific Islanders have reported experiencing microaggressions, racial profiling, harassment, and hate violence. **Since mid-March, STOP AAPI HATE, has received more than 1,800 reports of pandemic-fueled harassment or violence in 45 states and Washington, D.C.**

The Tacoma Community College Board of Trustees affirms our commitment to stand up against discrimination and racism and intentionally create an environment that honors the well-being and safety of Asian/Pacific Islander students, employees, and community members. We stand with them so they know they are not alone and that they can speak out to help stop the spread of bigotry and hatred. President Ivan Harrell issued a strong statement to the campus community on this subject, including resources. Read his statement here: [https://tacomacc.edu/ attachments/drhstandbymessage.pdf](https://tacomacc.edu/attachments/drhstandbymessage.pdf)

The Board of Trustees of Tacoma Community College denounces anti-Asian racism and xenophobia. We condemn the rhetoric and racist remarks and actions of some national leaders regarding the COVID-19 virus. Tacoma Community College joins fellow community colleges, cities, counties, and states across the country in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of Asian/Pacific Islanders and in combating harassment, discrimination and hate crimes targeting Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Lois Bernstein  
Liz Dunbar  
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