



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

October 9, 2020

Dear LACCD Colleagues and Students:

We are writing to share some very important information about the escalating violence and loss of life occurring within Artsakh, also known as Nagorno-Karabakh, as a result of violent conflict between Azerbaijani forces and Armenian troops. Artsakh directly borders current-day Armenia. Therefore, an attack on Artsakh heavily impacts Armenia. Over the last several days, we have heard from several LACCD colleagues from the Armenian community who are deeply impacted by grief, shock, isolation and fear with what is occurring. Many of our LACCD colleagues and students have family members who have been directly impacted.

We are writing to stand in solidarity with our Armenian colleagues and students during this time of great uncertainty and loss.

At Wednesday night's Board of Trustees' meeting, Board President Andra Hoffman, read the following statement into the record:

The year 2020 has been filled with enormous challenges. Most recently, the attack by Azerbaijan forces on the Armenian Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) is creating stress for many members of our LACCD community. It is important that we are aware of and sensitive to the impact the violence along the border of Armenia and Azerbaijan is having on our friends, family, fellow students, and colleagues, especially those who may have family in the affected region. The violence is a reminder of the genocides and ethnic cleansings that have occurred and we must be vigilant to stop. Conflicts of this nature are rooted in tragic history, which underscores the importance of education and a commitment from all of us to gain critical thinking and advocacy skills. While we may be physically distant, I want to assure you that we care and support you and remain committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students.

We urge the United States government to immediately engage in diplomatic efforts to take concrete steps to de-escalate the situation, end hostilities and aggression, and restore peace to prevent any further escalation which will endanger more lives. Dialogue, humanity and civility, not violence, must prevail and is the only way to bring comprehensive and enduring peace to the region.

District colleagues and students have asked how they can learn more about the current circumstances and how they can help. Attached is a link from our sister college, Glendale

Community College, to their [Artsakh and Azerbaijan Conflict Resource page](#) that contains valuable information and resource links.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue, and for your support and empathy for our Armenian colleagues and students at LACCD.

Sincerely,

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Chancellor

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President, Board of Trustees

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