



LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
CITY / EAST / HARBOR / MISSION / PIERCE / SOUTHWEST / TRADE-TECHNICAL / VALLEY / WEST

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

January 22, 2023

Dear LACCD Students, Staff and Faculty:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees and District Administration, we are heartbroken by the mass shooting at a Lunar New Year event last night in Monterey Park that left ten people dead and at least 10 others injured. What should have been a celebratory time to uplift the Asian American Pacific Islander community on the eve of the Lunar New Year and a time to focus on renewal and hope, health and prosperity, has become another senseless act of gun violence.

Our deepest condolences go out to those who tragically lost their lives and the families who will now endure insufferable pain and loss. Authorities are also investigating a potentially related incident in Alhambra that took place shortly thereafter and whether these incidents are related and/or racially-motivated hate crimes.

Monterey Park and Alhambra are communities in our service area that are proudly served by East Los Angeles College. We stand in firm solidarity with the city officials and residents of those communities, and with President Alberto Roman and our ELAC colleagues and students, as they navigate the aftermath of this unthinkable incident.

“With these incidences occurring in our very own communities, these senseless shootings are gut-wrenching and remind us we have considerably more work to do locally and as a country to stand up against gun violence,” said LACCD Board President David Vela. “At LACCD we are united and stand in solidarity with our AAPI communities.”

This incident must serve as a clarion call once and for all for responsible gun reform. According to data from the [Gun Violence Archive](#), this attack was at least the 33rd mass shooting in the country this year and the second in California in less than a week.

“Violence of any kind must be stopped,” said Trustee Kelsey K. Iino. “The time for real reform has never been more evident and we hope our elected officials work to strengthen our gun laws and to provide much-needed mental health services to our community. Humanity and safety are paramount!”

These incidents affect us deeply and differently, and I encourage our LACCD family to seek out any support that might be needed through our Employee Assistance Plan,

including the LifeWorks program, (800) 581-1485; the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, (800) 854-7771, or your own private resources. Also, please check with your college as additional counseling services for students and staff may be available through the health centers on campus.

At LACCD, we will sustain our uncompromising vigilance to keep our campuses safe and prepared for emergencies. We also stand in steadfast solidarity and allyship with individuals and organizations working towards the common goal of racial equity, social justice, and ending gun violence, once and for all.

With a heavy heart,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Francisco C. Rodriguez', written in a cursive style.

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.

Chancellor

Members of the LACCD Board of Trustees | David Vela, President | Nichelle Henderson, Vice President | Kelsey K. Iino, Ed.D., Second Vice President | Gabriel Buelna, Ph.D. | Sara Hernandez, J.D. | Andra Hoffman | Steven F. Veres | Kenneth Alan Callahan, Student Trustee