



The South Orange County Community College District is shocked and saddened by the recent events in Charlottesville, Virginia. We remain deeply committed to the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution concerning expression, religion, and the right of citizens to assemble peaceably and petition their government. However, it is critical that we reaffirm the District's position against hate speech and violence.

Racism and bigotry are unacceptable and are antithetical to our values. As community college educators, we are committed to leveling the playing field so that all people can access higher education to achieve their dreams. Community colleges exist to serve people from all walks of life and perspectives. By design, we welcome people of diverse backgrounds. We cherish thoughtful debate and the sharing of ideas. There is no place in our District for hate, intolerance or violence.

Equity and equality are central to our mission and we will continue to ensure that our campuses provide a safe environment for all. We are grateful to our faculty, staff, and administrators for all they do each day in support of our students, and wish you a successful and peaceful academic year.

Timothy Jemal
Board President

Dr. Debra L. Fitzsimons
Interim Chancellor

Denise Whittaker
Interim President, Saddleback College

Dr. Glenn R. Roquemore
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