



Dear Campus Community,

At TCC, we value inclusivity and the diversity of our wonderful college community. We share a goal to foster an environment that supports mutual respect, teamwork and freedom of expression.

Our values have recently been tested as racism, discrimination and xenophobic attacks against the Asian and Pacific Islander community have escalated since the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic began. We must stand up and not tolerate such behavior. As president of TCC, it is my responsibility to uphold the values of our college. I can assure you that TCC will not tolerate any racist behavior whether online, in-person, or via any other means that is directed at any racial group, but in particular of those in the Asian and Pacific Islander community.

Pandemics have been with us for thousands of years and have come from many different countries for many different reasons. COVID-19 may have originated in China, but the Chinese are not responsible for creating it. No one created this virus. It came from nature. Historians and public health experts and groups have advised not to assign names or geographic locations to infectious diseases. Such association leads to discrimination and xenophobia.

Although we are not aware of any racist incidents on our campus, there have been incidents targeting the Asian and Pacific Islander community in the area, including hate speech, vandalism and assault. Several of our own TCC members have faced racist and aggressive behaviors in public spaces. We have heard of other incidents, such as microaggressions, against Asians and Pacific Islanders. None of these type of behaviors are acceptable.

For those of you who experience racist harassment of any sort or know of someone who has experienced harassment, I encourage you to reach out to the following for confidential support and follow-up actions:

- For immediate support, please contact the [Tacoma Police](#) or your local law enforcement agency if the incident involves a criminal act such as physical assault or vandalism.
- Please contact the following organizations to report an incident and access other resources in English and multiple Asian languages:

[Asian Americans Advancing Justice](#)

[Asian and Pacific Policy and Planning Council](#)

[Chinese Affirmative Action Campaign - #STOPAAPIHATE](#)

- TCC has an active and engaged Asian & Pacific Islander Committee (API). Please contact a representative of TCC's API Committee for referrals to supportive services:

Wendy Larsen wlarsen@tacomacc.edu

Mary Chen-Johnson mchenjohnson@tacomacc.edu

- Please contact TCC's Bias Incident Response Team (BIRT) for confidential support and referrals to other supportive services:

Dolores Haugen dhaugen@tacomacc.edu

Will Howard whoward@tacomacc.edu

Nigeria Bell nbell@tacomacc.edu

Sonja Morgan smorgan@tacomacc.edu

Our values at TCC are clear and strong. To our Asian and Pacific Islander family, we stand with you, and we stand with our entire community during this unprecedented and challenging time.

Dr. Harrell