



Dear Mt. SAC Family,

I hope you and your loved ones are well. In light of recent federal actions, including intensified immigration enforcement and the Department of Education's newly issued [Dear Colleague letter](#) on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs, we want to reaffirm our commitment to supporting and protecting all students.

Late Friday, the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights issued broad guidance declaring that race-conscious student programming, financial aid, and support services violate federal civil rights law.

We recognize that this guidance has created uncertainty and concern. However, we want to be clear: our commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive educational environment for all students remains steadfast. While this guidance represents the Department of Education's interpretation of the law, the legality of this interpretation is being analyzed, and legal challenges are already underway. We are working closely with the Chancellor's Office, legal experts, advocacy organizations, and elected officials to assess the implications and determine the best course of action.

As we navigate this challenging moment, we will continue to:

- **Advocate for Our Students:** We are actively engaging with state and federal representatives to voice concerns about the impact of this directive and to ensure that our students receive the support they deserve.
- **Seek Legal and Policy Clarity:** We are consulting with legal experts to understand the implications of the Dear Colleague letter and protect the programs that are essential to student success.
- **Stand Firm in Our Values:** Diversity, equity, and inclusion are fundamental to our mission. We will continue to celebrate and uplift all students and foster a sense of safety and belonging, and appreciation for all.

At this moment, I urge our Mt. SAC family to work together and unite in support of each other and our students. We encourage faculty, staff, and administrators to reach out with concerns and questions. We will provide updates as deemed appropriate and as we gain additional knowledge. In the meantime, we will not waiver in our dedication to creating a campus environment where every student and team member feels valued, supported, and empowered to succeed.

Finally, I am including communication from Chancellor Christian in response to the Dear Colleague Letter, as a reference.

Thank you for your all you do and commitment to our students! I am honored and feel privileged to serve alongside you and to serve you.

We are in this together.



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