

Office of the Superintendent / President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D.

CITRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT 1000 W. Foothill Blvd., Glendora, CA 91741-1899

July 16, 2014

Dear Community Member:

As Superintendent/President of Citrus College, I am contacting you as a courtesy regarding a matter that has, understandably, raised questions within the community and in the media. Citrus College has received a lawsuit filed in federal court by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE). The lawsuit claims that the college's free speech area and sexual harassment policies and procedures violate free speech rights.

As background, FIRE has brought similar actions against Chicago State University, lowa State University and Ohio University in what appears to be a national effort by FIRE to assert its views on free speech areas and sexual harassment policies. Due to the filing of the lawsuit, the college is limited in its ability to address the specific allegations, but we can assure you that we take these allegations seriously.

Committed to providing all of our students and our community the right to engage in free speech activities on campus, the Citrus Community College District established a free speech area in the heart of the college campus. The purpose of this area is to provide students and the public with a visible and heavily trafficked location on campus for public expression, from rallies and speeches to distribution of materials and public engagement.

As a leading community college dedicated to serving public education, Citrus College believes it is our responsibility and privilege to teach, uphold and model free speech rights, while striving to maintain a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Respectfully,

Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. Superintendent/President

The Citrus Community College District's <u>Board Policy 3900</u> and <u>Administrative Procedure 3900</u>, Speech: Time, Place and Manner are available on the college's website, and the links are provided above for your information.