

Dear LSC Campus Community:

Wonderful things are happening on our beautiful campus. Our community is gearing up for a virtual commencement, our students are finding great jobs or going off to further their education at one of our partner schools, more staff are returning to campus as the COVID pandemic begins to wane, and we have many projects underway to enhance our beautiful campus for all to enjoy. And the weather is getting warmer, with happy bird songs in the air.

Yet these wonderful things have been happening against a backdrop of extremely challenging and traumatic events in our state. Many in our LSC community are hurt, angry, and fearful as we experience repeated acts of violence, racism, and social injustice. We must recognize the trauma that many of our friends, family, and colleagues are experiencing – especially those in the Black community. Although extraordinarily difficult, the trial of Derek Chauvin has also been a powerful expression of our collective demand for racial justice. This is to be expected: meaningful social change is rarely easy or quick.

Through Equity 2030, we have set the ambitious goal of eliminating educational equity gaps at every Minnesota State college and university by 2030. As our organizing principle, it provides an equity lens to everything we do and guides us as we strive to create an inclusive and anti-racist organizational ethos.



In the context of this trial, compounded by the tragic death of Daunte Wright, deep feelings of outrage, fear, and grief are natural and to be expected. As a community of learners, we must redouble our efforts to achieve equity, inclusion, and racial justice. We must redouble our efforts in this critical work and stay focused on providing opportunities for all Minnesotans to create a better future for themselves, for their families, and for their communities.

One way each of us can begin to take action today is to be kind to each other. Reach out to your friends and colleagues. Be kind to yourself and pay attention to your health and wellbeing. Remember: these difficult events, compounded by the twin pandemics of systemic racism and COVID have been so very hard on everyone.

And it is also clear that healing must begin. Our institutions of higher education are uniquely positioned to model the path forward, address systemic racism that permeates our society, and begin to heal social divides.

Be safe, be well, be kind.

Patricia L. Rogers, Ph.D.

President

Lake Superior College

Pronouns: She, Her, Hers -- [More about pronouns](#)