

**From:** Rogers, Patricia L

**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2020 4:23 PM

**To:** LSC-Campus-Employees <LSC-Campus-Employees@lsc.edu>; LSC-Campus-Students <LSC-Campus-Students@lsc.edu>

**Subject:** May 28 Campus Message

Dear LSC Community:

As a campus striving for inclusion, equity, and unity, the current events in Minneapolis run completely counter to our campus values and goals. We are actively working to make LSC a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community. We have embraced the high ideals and goals of Equity 2030, yet we clearly have much work to do. It is indeed a sad and emotional day in Minnesota, and throughout the country. My heart is heavily burdened by the death of Mr. George Floyd and I grieve with his family and friends.

Mr. Floyd's death and the subsequent reactions unfolding over the few last days make a powerful impact on each of our lives. Many of us will experience a wide range of emotions and reactions from anger to despair; from fear to hopelessness. In the midst of this painful time, we must strengthen our commitment to effect true change in our society. We must resolve to make deliberate efforts to ensure that our campus and local communities are safe, welcoming, and truly inclusive.

To accomplish these goals, we must also recognize that it is critical that we help each other, support each other, and acknowledge the reactions of those most closely affected by these incidents. One way is to have some time and space to work through our inner feelings and reactions. Please know that there are several avenues for this support: I encourage each of you to turn to your colleagues, friends, family, and spiritual practices for comfort and guidance. Employees may also consider contacting the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that provides free, confidential support for employees and their families any time; call 651-259-3840 or 1-800-657-3719. And I understand there is a zoom conversation for faculty, staff, and students being organized by Sarah Lyons, our Executive Diversity Officer. You will get the details on that meeting soon.

I will close with the very thoughtful and profound words that Chancellor Malhotra sent out earlier today over social media:

*"My heart is heavy for our communities today. We all are impacted by the death of Mr. Floyd. For those prompted by grief and anger, who are working peacefully to effect change in our communities, remember the Minnesota State community is with you. My thoughts go out to also the residents impacted by the unrest. Times like these require unity and strong resolve. We must work together to strengthen our connection and commit all of our efforts to addressing longstanding societal ills and help create places we not only take pride in, but where we can all feel safe, valued, and respected."*

Let us be firm in our work for Equity 2030. Let us be resolved to make our communities places of safety and inclusion. Let us all be well.

Patricia L. Rogers, Ph.D.  
President  
Lake Superior College