

Dear Campus Community:

Happy February 2022 Black History Month. Happy Valentine's Day to all. Happy Anniversary to some of you, and Happy Birthday to those of you born on this date.

Tomorrow, we celebrate Student Success day. This is a day for students to explore opportunities and ideas for academic and personal success. There are amazing sessions planned and so many ways for student to connect. I love the activities, and you can bet I will be out there meeting students and serving meals. I also plan to attend a few sessions, and I hope our faculty and staff take some time to attend an interesting session, and hopefully our keynote.

In so many ways, it is really the LSC Community's Success Day as well.

I have noticed so much good work going on across our College. As I make the rounds and chat with people, I am finding that some folks do not think they are making things happen quickly enough or are not making big strides toward taking LSC to its next level of excellence. I understand the tendency to think this way. I have talked with students who worry they still have so much more to learn before the graduate, how can they possibly make those big knowledge gains?

All of this hard thinking and well-intended drive to be the best has led to quite a bit of added stress and some behaviors that are noticeably less than kind. In the drive to gain top level performance in our work or education, it seems that many folks have fallen into a way of thinking that assumes someone has to lose in order for someone else to win. Just not true at all. In fact, what really ensures individual success is also the shared success of those around us:

"...when the going gets tough, and it always will get tough if you are doing breakthrough work that really matters, what people need is social support, and they need to know who to ask for help. Companies [colleges] don't have ideas; only people do. And what motivates people are the bonds of loyalty and trust they develop between each other. What matters is the mortar, not just the bricks." -Margaret Heffernan

This is how we as a College Community ensure success: with love, kindness, and helping each other. This is what makes each of us strong and healthy: we depend on the work and support of others around us. This is not a competition, but rather a place to grow and prosper with the help of the rest of the LSC Community.

Be well, be safe, stay warm.

And I also suggest you take just a few minutes out of your busy day to enjoy Margaret Heffernan's TED Talk: https://www.ted.com/talks/margaret_heffernan_forget_the_pecking_order_at_work

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