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## Letter - An important time to support one anohter

Maria Pallavicini University of the Pacific

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## An important time to support one another

Mar 5, 2020

To the University of the Pacific Community,

University of the Pacific is a wonderfully inclusive institution with campuses in three of the most diverse cities in the nation. We embrace and support our differences and are committed to making sure our campuses are safe and welcoming environments for all students, staff, faculty and guests.

Concerns over novel coronavirus (COVID-19) are causing fear and uncertainty at Pacific and other colleges and universities across the nation. Viruses do not target people from specific populations, ethnicities or racial backgrounds, nor should we as Pacificans.

There are several ways we can support one another and counter stigma against Asian and other members of our community:

- Extend compassion and kindness to others during what is, for many in our community, a time of great stress and uncertainty.
- Do not make assumptions about someone's health status based on their ethnicity, race or national origin.
- Rely on and share trusted sources of information regarding COVID-19 such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization.
- Be conscious of your language, its intent and impact.
- Report incidents of stigmatization or harassment through the Bias Response Incident Report Form or call 209.946.7678.

I also encourage you to review the CDC webpage on countering this stigma.

It is our students, faculty and staff who make Pacific a great place to be. Working together we can prevent stigmatization and ensure an environment free of bias and hate.