



November 2, 2020

It is the day before the general election and millions of Americans are exercising their fundamental right to choose the next president of the United States. People are also casting their ballots for many other candidates at the federal, state and local levels. This has perhaps been one of the most contentious election seasons in our nation's history, with great significance for our country.

Regardless of the outcomes, important work remains to be done. The underlying issues that created persistent inequities, disparities and unrest in our country will remain if we, as Americans, become complacent after this election.

Black Lives Matter — today and every day, and through all election cycles. Our colleges will continue to tackle systemic racism and dismantle institutional barriers for students of color. All students deserve to accomplish the dreams that brought them to our doors.

We are proud to be part of the fabric of our local communities, home to people from all walks of life, belief systems, origins and identities. Diversity in all its forms is our nation's greatest asset.

As higher education institutions, we will continue to advance critical thinking, foster courageous conversations, and provide a platform for communities to learn from, and about, one another.

Community and technical colleges are, after all, democracy's colleges. We were built from the idea that people from all backgrounds and incomes should have the right to higher education. We were created in the knowledge that education empowers people, builds better lives and creates stronger communities. Our students are the key to building a bright future for America, with a stronger and more inclusive economy.

As we navigate the next weeks and months, let us remember that our nation's fate is not only determined by those who hold the highest positions, but by the everyday actions of the people who make up the fabric of our country. America's character is built by the moment-by-moment decisions to choose kindness over cruelty, action over complacency, generosity over self-centeredness and community over division.

These qualities are on shining display at commencement ceremonies, where friends and family members express sheer joy not just for their own loved ones, but for all the students. Even during this historic pandemic, when many ceremonies have temporarily moved online, this goodwill shines through; we bring out the best in ourselves for others.

Let's continue to reach out across our differences, come together and create the world in which we want to live. Combined, the individual ripples we create will build into a wave that moves our college communities, and our nation, forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Landa-McVicker".

Carol Landa-McVicker
SBCTC Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Ryan".

Robert Ryan
ACT President
Tacoma Community College

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric W. Murray".

Eric Murray
WACTC President
Cascadia College

Lin Zhou
Bates Technical College

Daria Willis
Everett Community College

Michele Johnson
Pierce College

Gary Locke
Bellevue College

Edward Brewster
Grays Harbor College

Julie White
Pierce College Fort Steilacoom

Kimberly Perry
Bellingham Technical College

Suzanne Johnson
Green River College

Darrell Cain
Pierce College Puyallup

Sara Thompson Tweedy
Big Bend Community College

John Mosby
Highline College

Kevin McCarthy
Renton Technical College

Bob Mohrbacher
Centralia College

Amy Morrison
Lake Washington Institute of
Technology

Sheila Edwards Lange
Seattle Central College

Karin Edwards
Clark College

Christopher Bailey
Lower Columbia College

Shouan Pan
Seattle Colleges

Joyce Loveday
Clover Park Technical College

Chemene Crawford
North Seattle College

Cheryl Roberts
Shoreline Community College

Rebekah Woods
Columbia Basin College

Marty Cavalluzzi
Olympic College

Tom Keegan
Skagit Valley College

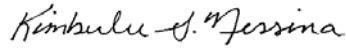
Amit Singh
Edmonds College

Luke Robins
Peninsula College

Tim Stokes
South Puget Sound
Community College



Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap
South Seattle College




Kimberlee Messina
Spokane Falls Community
College



Jim Richardson
Wenatchee Valley College



Christine Johnson
Community Colleges of
Spokane



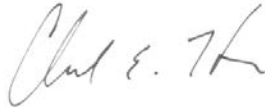
Ivan Harrell
Tacoma Community College



Kathi Hiyane-Brown
Whatcom Community College



Kevin Brockbank
Spokane Community College



Chad Hickox
Walla Walla Community
College



Linda Kaminski
Yakima Valley College