June 3, 2020

To Faculty, Staff, and Administrators:

An undeniably widespread feeling of worry, sadness, fear, anxiety, and anger has pervaded at the local, regional, and global level for the last several months. COVID-19 interrupted life as we knew it. Most recently, the crisis has been heightened by the tragic killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. These troubled times call for us to demonstrate compassion, respond with humility, and listen without judgment.

Kern Community College District celebrates and welcomes diversity. Our core principles foster a culture of care, concern, respect, and equity. I believe that working together we can build a more respectful and honorable environment that is fair and equitable for all. As an institution of higher learning, we are dedicated to treating our students, coworkers, and fellow humans with kindness. Our campuses will continue the work that removes barriers to student access and success.

It is my fervent hope that these heart-breaking events will lead to change. Although change needs to occur at all levels of society, it starts with individuals. I invite you to join me today to commit to doing better. We can create vibrant and thriving educational communities that are safe environments to live, work, learn, and grow. Let us be a diverse and unified community that leads the way in changing for the better!

I invite you to utilize the support resources available to you through our Employee Assistance Program by calling 800-999-7222 or visiting anthemEAP.com.

Respectfully,

Thomas J. Burke
Chancellor
Kern Community College District