UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY

Many of us have been made aware of some recent nationally publicized suicides of young students, some on college campuses. I am deeply saddened by these events and extend my heartfelt condolences to all those touched by them.

I want to remind the entire UC community that there are campus resources in place to assist in managing the many stresses and pressures associated with academic, social, and work life. On each of the campus websites, information can be found on counseling and psychological services, multicultural and LGBT offices and resources, and staff trained to work with community members who may feel marginalized. For students living on campus, Residence Assistants and Directors are available for support. Most importantly, each of you is the other’s best resource. Support each other and, when necessary, get help from campus personnel.

The suicide of Tyler Clementi from Rutgers University based on anti-LGBT bullying also reminds us of our need to renew our commitment to a safe, inclusive, and civil campus community.

It is incumbent upon every member of the UC community to visibly and vigorously challenge expressions of intimidation and bigotry wherever, whenever, and however they occur. If you experience or witness incidents of bias, I urge you to report these, anonymously if you choose, using an online reporting system the University launched in September. It can be found at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/reportcampusclimate or by calling 1-800-403-4744.

I remain committed to addressing the critical challenges we face in creating and sustaining welcoming and inclusive environments on each of our campuses. To that end, in May, I convened the President’s Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture, and Inclusion, which has been charged with monitoring and evaluating the progress of each campus in creating conditions that will best support the mission of the University and identify promising practices to in order to create a welcoming and inclusive campus climate. The Council will follow closely reported incidents and our responses to them.

Finally, I invite each of you to review our campus Principles of Community at http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/diversity/principles_community.html, which calls for civility and respect in our personal interactions. I believe all of us strongly support these principles.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mark G. Yudof
President