



Dear Cougars,

As classes kick off this week, we write to offer support to all members of our community following two horrific tragedies that have taken place in California over the last two days. The first, a mass shooting on Saturday evening in the majority Asian-American city of Monterey Park, taking the lives of 11 individuals and injuring several more; and the second, a shooting in Half Moon Bay that took the lives of seven Chinese farmworkers and injured at least one more. Details for both incidents are still unfolding.

Further compounding the pain of these tragedies is that they took place against the backdrop of the Lunar New Year, a 15-day celebration marked by many traditions around the world, including the sentiments of joy, celebration, rejuvenation and renewal. In this difficult moment, we stand in solidarity and grief with the victims' families and loved ones, the Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay communities, and the entire Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) community here at CSUSM and beyond.

Please know that we have important resources available to support you or anyone you may know who could use some assistance. As we start the spring semester, and throughout the days and weeks to come, please lean on and take care of one another.

Resources

[Cougar Care Network](#)

[Office of Inclusive Excellence \(including the APIDA Faculty Staff Association\)](#)

[Student Health & Counseling Services](#)

[Student Life Centers for Identity, Inclusion and Empowerment \(including the Cross-Cultural Center\)](#)

[Employee Assistance Program](#)

[CSUSM Library Guide "Stop Asian Hate"](#)

In Cougar solidarity,

Ellen Neufeldt
President

Aswad Allen
Chief Diversity Officer

Viridiana Diaz
Vice President, Student Affairs

Floyd Lai
Director, Cross-Cultural Center

Cheryl Landin
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