



Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2019

### Campus Message about Recent Shootings

I've been watching the news unfold related to three recent mass shootings across our country, and I wanted to take a moment to reach out to you.

I have spoken to many of you who share with me a desire to express heartfelt condolences to the communities of Gilroy, California; El Paso, Texas; and Dayton, Ohio. For anyone at our university who may have had friends or family members impacted by these tragedies, we offer our support and note below where resources are available.

As a campus, a community, a nation – we've been through a lot. These senseless acts of violence and hate are absolutely reprehensible, and our collective resolve around community and diversity are being tested. Our campus and region have not been immune, but I'm heartened that we continue to stand together and denounce toxic ideologies that fuel hate and have contributed to these and other recent tragedies.

I share the frustration and sadness that many of you feel regarding this devastating violence. At times like these, I firmly believe that it is the strength of our campus community — united by values of inclusive excellence, respect, compassion and civility — that can bring us together. Here at CSUSM, we welcome and respect people with unique and diverse backgrounds, perspectives and views. As a learning and teaching community, our commitment to the free and peaceful exchange of ideas is critical.

We know that members of our campus community may be personally affected by these recent events. Students can contact [Student Health and Counseling Services](#) for a range of services. The [Cougar Care Network](#) and [SOAR](#) can provide information about on- and off-campus resources. For faculty and staff, the [Employee Assistance Program](#) is available at 1-800-367-7474. The [Office of University Ombuds](#) also offers confidential and neutral assistance.

Before joining the campus, I was moved as I watched you support each other in the wake of the Poway Chabad tragedy. I know I am part of a community where we will find strength in each other moving forward.

Sincerely,

Ellen J. Neufeldt

President