



Hello student colleagues!

Can you believe it is March already? The year is flying by despite all the challenges we have had. I hope this semester is treating you well as you prepare for mid-term papers and exams. I have been very busy with work associated with mitigating risks associated COVID-19, the continued development of our Anti-Racist Framework, and creating new structures for relationship building throughout the region. One of my goals as Interim Superintendent/President has been to work with staff and faculty to create opportunities for community members to engage with the College more often to ensure that we are listening to the needs and finding cool new opportunities for you. One such new opportunity is our partnership with [SDSU](#).

I imagine what is on everyone's mind right now is COVID-19 related as the data and health regulations change frequently. As you might already know, the data has been improving week by week. While San Diego County is still in the "purple tier" we are getting closer to the less restrictive "red tier". Vaccine distribution is also getting better every week (though it still has a way to go). Just recently, educators were added to the group of people who may get vaccinations, and I was able to get my 1st vaccination last week. It was very exciting! However, the Center for Disease Control recently reminded everyone to remain vigilant, wear masks, and stay socially distanced. There is a COVID-variant that is very contagious here in California. We need to be careful even though we are making good progress. I will paste several resource links for you at the end of this letter. I will keep you posted on the vaccination education videos we are designing for you all. Stay tuned!

I am also thinking that you may be wondering what the fall course schedule will look like. We are actively developing a plan for fall. We are planning with the hope in mind that San Diego County will be in the "orange tier" by the start of the fall semester, which will allow us to offer more face-to-face offerings, while still adhering to all health and safety protocols. Our primary focus is on the classes that you all need to complete your degrees and certificates (particularly if the courses were not offered in the 2020-21 academic year). If San Diego County is not in the orange tier by the start of the semester, we may not be able to offer as many face-to-face classes as intended. Everyone keep safe, stay well, and we will be in good shape!

We are continuing our work on the antiracism framework for the College. You can learn more about this work [here](#). We just had an extremely successful Black History month celebration due to the leadership of the Palomar Black Faculty and Staff Association, the Associated Student Government, and the Student Life & Leadership department. A lot of great work is happening

across campus, including reviewing and improving administrative procedures, creating a land acknowledgement of native/indigenous community, civil engagement events, faculty's examination of their teaching, and new procedures for our Human Resource Services department to help us attract and support diverse faculty and staff.

I hope in addition to your classes, work, and family responsibilities, you are able to find some time for some relaxation and fun. Speaking of fun, a cross functional team is working on finalizing a plan for the May 28 drive-thru commencement celebration. It is really coming together and should be a great recognition event for all graduates.

I think I mentioned last month, that I have been doing a lot of gardening. This year, my wife and I planted a bunch of seeds and are now transplanting seedlings, etc., with hopes of placement in our garden beds. We planted more seedlings than we need and will give the extras to our neighbors soon. I will let you know how it goes! I have also continued to work on my music recording hobby. I am excited that soon I will get together with friends to actually record some music. I will let you know how that goes as well.

I hope you are all doing well. I can't wait to see you in person on campus soon. I hope the resources below are helpful for you. Be well!

Cheers,

Jack S. Kahn

Jack Kahn, Ph.D.

Interim Superintendent/President

Here are some helpful resources:

[Find Open Spring 4-week and 8-week classes](#)

[Quick Guide to Student Resources](#)

[Emergency Funding](#)

[Financial Aid and Scholarships](#)

[Commencement 2021](#)