Colleagues and Friends,

I know this message finds many of you with a heavy heart as our country and the world weathers another senseless tragedy, one fed by the poison of hate and prejudice. The perpetrator that killed 11 people at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh had posted numerous rants against the Jewish community and those seeking asylum from persecution.

Bias and bigotry are not exclusive to Pennsylvania. Recently, the New York Times reported that a United States Department of Health and Human Services memo proposes restricting the definition of gender as a "biological, immutable condition determined by genitalia at birth." The Department of Justice has argued before the Supreme Court that businesses could discriminate against workers based on their gender identity without violating federal law.

We are, once again, faced with an important decision. We must advance those values that make Cal State San Bernardino an inclusive community, one that embraces <u>all</u> cultures and ethnicities, faiths and identities. Intolerance has no place at this university.

Join Evy and I as we send our thoughts and prayers to all those around the world who are feeling the fear and pain of ignorance. Let's continue to make our world a better place by renewing our commitment to those values we hold dear and continue to educate our students within a university community which embodies them.

Tomás D. Morales President