

Dear Members of the CSUSB Community,

Like you, I have spent yesterday and today trying to process the violent events that took place in the United States Capitol on Wednesday, January 6th. We watched—in real time and then through images shared afterwards on our televisions, computers and phones—the shocking actions of American citizens over-running the Capitol Police, smashing into the Capitol building, terrorizing the Vice President and an overwhelming majority of our Senators and Representatives and their staffers who were fortunately able to evacuate in time to secure locations, and causing damage to offices of which the full extent is still being assessed. We saw the Confederate Battle flag paraded through the Capitol, something that did not even happen during the Civil War. Investigations are ongoing by our elected legislators, our federal investigatory bodies, and our free and independent press, and I am confident that the facts of all that occurred and a full list of those involved will be revealed. In the meantime, however, five people died as a result of Wednesday's armed uprising against our democratic government.

Make no mistake: this is a fluid and dangerous political situation and it is ongoing. Smaller violent protests took place in state capitals around the country as well as in downtown Los Angeles: we have a national issue with white supremacist and paramilitary organizations which have been increasingly emboldened to act. We also know that the police response to this insurrectionary event would have been far different if the majority of those involved were not white—this was shown to us over and over again during 2020 in the response to the racial and social justice protests which occurred all across our nation.

But we are still here. Our institutions are holding. The 2020 presidential election results were certified. And our Vice President, President-Elect, Vice-President Elect and the Congress and their staff are safe. So I urge you to remain calm, stay informed, access reputable news sources and be wary of rumors. We clearly have work to do, as a nation. Wednesday held a mirror up to where America is at this moment in history and this shocking reflection needs to be acknowledged by us. It is definitely having reverberations around the world by both those who support our constitutional republic and have looked up to us for our democratic ideals and those who do not.

As an institution of higher education, dedicated to the academic principles of growing knowledge, insight and understanding, we can be agents of clear-eyed hope which is fact-based and solution-focused. I have great faith in the caring and compassion of our CSUSB community. If there was ever a time to fully embody those traits, that time is now.

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke about times in our nation's history which were "midnights." In 1967, he said of that moment, "It is also midnight in our world, and the darkness is so deep that we can hardly see which way to turn." We are at a midnight moment right now. But he gave us these hopeful words: "The dawn will come. Disappointment, sorrow, and despair are born at midnight, but morning follows."

Sincerely,

Tomás D. Morales
President