



ALMA COLLEGE

Campus Community,

We acknowledge that these have been unprecedented times, and we have sent many communications in the last week surrounding COVID-19 and the response we as a college and community have employed. As a campus community, we must support each other with the kindness and respect that are hallmarks of the Alma College community just as we engage in our safety precautions and our continued efforts for education.

We have unfortunately received reports of discriminatory comments and harassment directed towards Asian students on campus as a social response to COVID-19, or coronavirus. This behavior and stereotyping is inaccurate, harmful, and contrary to the values we have established about [being a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community](#). We recognize that this behavior is part of [a tragic trend around the country and world](#), and with [a long history of bigotry in associating Asian Americans, particularly those of East Asian descent, with disease](#). We condemn this behavior in the strongest terms.

If you have experienced discrimination, please report these acts to the Civil Rights Office to access interim remedies, supports, as well as to discuss how the college can respond to put a stop to any harassment and prevent it from reoccurring. The Diversity and Inclusion office is also available to assist with identifying resources and support. Educational resources are available on the [Diversity and Inclusion webpage](#). If you wish to speak about your experiences confidentially, please reach out to our [Counseling Center](#) or [Chaplain's Office](#). We must also continue to [educate ourselves on the medically informed steps that we can take to prevent contracting and/or spreading illness](#), as well as on [the history and impact that these stereotypes and discriminatory behaviors](#) have on the members of campus.

Lastly, we ask all campus members who witness or who hear stories of such behavior to join our voices in condemning this behavior. Bystanders in these situations have a tremendous ability to step up and speak out against bigotry on our campus and in our community. Actively confronting xenophobia, racism, and hate is a way for us to live out our values, as well as to communicate to the campus community, and around the world that this behavior will not be tolerated within our community.

Dr. Donnesha Blake
Director of Diversity and Inclusion

Kevin Carmody
Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator