



Statement Condemning Xenophobia and Anti-Asian Racism Amidst COVID-19

Throughout the past few weeks, the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, his administration, members of Senate and House, and even community leaders in various parts of the US have used language that misrepresents COVID-19 and endangers global Asian communities and Asian Americans in the US. Both informally and in official communications they have respectively referred to COVID-19 as “Kungflu Virus,” “Chinavirus,” “the Chinese Virus” and “Wuhan Virus.” Internationally this messaging undermines the dignity of Asian people and breeds divisiveness among nations who are trying to partner to address this global pandemic together. In the United States, these actions undermine the safety of Chinese American and other Asian American communities and increase xenophobia and discrimination as a whole. Further, COVID-19 has been used by the Administration as an opportunity to further racialize, denigrate, and call into question the rights of all immigrants in our country.

The Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Providence College is committed to the well-being of all members of the PC community. Any attempt to normalize xenophobia and bigotry is squarely against our mission as a department and a College. As we move forward to address this global pandemic, the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Inclusion stands with Asian American and other immigrant communities to condemn xenophobic or racialized classifications of COVID-19. We encourage all members of the PC community to join us in promoting factual information about the virus, cultural competence in discussing it, and an inclusive sense of belonging and community care for everyone during this very difficult time. As a Dominican Catholic institution and a place of teaching and learning have a responsibility to lead with knowledge, love, equity and inclusion for our whole community.

Our office will continue to be a resource for as this pandemic poses unforeseen challenges. We encourage you all to stay safe and reach out to us with questions, ideas, and concerns about how we can respond with equity during these uncertain times. Please reach out to our office at diversity@providence.edu

All the best,
Office of Institutional Diversity.