June 2, 2020

Dear Members of the HCCC Community,

Like all of you, I am deeply saddened and heartbroken to witness the unfolding of the most recent tragic deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, followed by civil unrest and violence in cities and neighborhoods across our nation. Unlike our new enemy, COVID-19, the old enemies of racism, hate, injustice and violence continue to threaten and harm all of us, and particularly people of color.

The diversity of Hudson County Community College, and the multitude of our community’s collective cultures, life experiences, skills and aspirations, are the very values and traits that empower us to be productive members of our society. We are all proud of the differences we share, which are the foundation for the life-changing and transformational education we offer and the social mobility we provide to the communities we serve.

Each of us has a unique life experience, but we stand together in solidarity with the African American and Black community, and all communities, against racism. We stand together against hate and violence. We are fully committed to fostering an institutional culture and climate that is inclusive, equitable, and embraces every individual. Every person matters and deserves respect. There is no space in our society for racism, hate or violence. As we work collectively against injustice, our efforts should be clear and intentional.

We want to provide space and a platform of support for our students, faculty, staff and community members. Shortly I will schedule a special Town Hall Meeting to share our thoughts, feelings and ideas. I am also asking the President’s Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (PACDEI) to plan a series of open fora, in which members of our College community can share, reflect, listen, learn, and participate in confronting inequities and empowering positive and impactful change.

I thank our students, staff, faculty, trustees and community friends for their resilience and commitment to promoting access for the underrepresented communities – and all communities – we serve. Hudson County Community College is an inspirational family. We care for one another and work together to face a multitude of challenges.

As a community, we will find a way forward. We will continue to live and breathe the values of human dignity and respect as we learn, teach and work. Our graduates are our future, and they embody these values and a commitment to community service. Through our HCCC mission and the people of our community, we will contribute to positive change and a brighter future.

With heartfelt support and respect,

Christopher M. Reber
President