

Good morning KCC,

This is not quite what I had in mind for my first message to you in the new year, but the events of the last 24 hours have weighed so heavily on my mind and spirit that I felt compelled to reach out to you this morning. Many of you feel this same weight. Like you, I understand and respect a diversity of opinions even those that differ from my own and like you I know that difference should not be synonymous with disrespect. Yesterday I vacillated between watching in disbelief what was occurring in our nation's capitol, and not watching because of the sadness and helplessness I felt in those moments.

What I have come to fully embrace this morning, is that I, we, all of us do have a lot of power. The power of our words matter, and we know that our actions, whether big or small have powerful consequences. We stand at the intersection of a life altering global pandemic and civil, social and political unrest in a powerful space, a transformative space called higher education. It is a space where we must actively walk with our students and each other to explore and discuss these important issues; and it is a space where we can act together to fulfill the mission and vision of Kingsborough. Our work --within ourselves, with each other, in our communities, and with our students as we prepare them to be the next generation of leaders --is more important than it has ever been.

I am grateful to share this space with you and I look forward to doing this work with you.

Schrader