

Dear Price students, staff and faculty,

I am grateful to lead a School whose mission is to improve the quality of life for people and their communities, and to be surrounded by people who share that commitment.

The horrific events in Charlottesville, however, followed swiftly by the attacks in Barcelona are grim and painful reminders of the deep divides that not only mark our nation, but much of the world.

As a School, we believe the fight for social justice and equity requires sustained, productive action, which must be indelibly linked to quality research and clearly reasoned, persuasive arguments if we are to achieve the change we want to make in the world. We are also deeply committed to making certain our School is a safe place for everyone in our community to work and study, to be understood, and to be able to exchange perspectives in an environment that values open inquiry and discussion.

On a personal note, I want to share one story. My youngest granddaughter was born in May, and like every grandparent, I fell in love with her the minute I saw her. Thinking of her and the legacy we will leave for all children reminds me again and again that we must always firmly stand against violence, discrimination, hatred, and bigotry -- in every form and every place we find it. Her future -- and our future -- rests on the choices we make today. Knowing the Price community, I have great hope and expectation we will create a world where equity, civility and inclusion are the standards for all.

There are a number of ongoing Price School efforts listed below that provide opportunities for students, staff and faculty to engage in discussion and action around social justice, diversity, and inclusion, and I want to make certain you are aware of these so that you can participate as your interest and schedule allows.

And, please know that if you have questions, concerns or recommendations, I invite you to share them with me. I look forward to your feedback.

My best wishes for a wonderful and productive school year.



Jack H. Knott, Dean



USC PRICE SOCIAL JUSTICE, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS

Moving Forward:

Moving Forward is an online platform for Price students, staff and faculty to engage in honest dialogue. It is a place to share narratives and experiences, as well as ideas, data, and analysis, where we can learn from the diverse perspectives and experiences of people in our Price community. Your stories and thoughts can be shared online throughout the year, and we will hold open meetings each semester to engage in dialogue around content that has been submitted. We plan to hold the first fall semester conversation in the first week of October.

Diversity and Cultural Competency Workshops

Over the course of the next school year, we will continue our workshop series with two workshops each semester open to students, staff and faculty designed to help us recognize cultural, ethnic and racial differences and disparities and develop the skills to address and engage in sensitive and meaningful ways. We plan to hold the first workshop mid-semester.

Social Justice Seminars

We hold or sponsor at least one social justice-focused seminar each semester. This fall's program will be held at the end of October, and we support the Students of Color and Allies Policy Forum each spring.

Student Organizations

There are many student organizations within the School, and I encourage you to get involved; we rely on the input and insight of these organizations to help us determine student needs and how to provide responsive policies and programs that can address those concerns.

Rapid Response to Issues/Events as They Arise

Unfortunately, given the volatility of our world, we anticipate there may be events throughout the year that will be disturbing and challenging for us as a community. If those circumstances arise, we commit to providing public forums within 24-48 hours for students, staff and faculty to gather to share their perspectives and concerns.

Homegrown Violent Extremism Summit

I also want to draw your attention to a global summit USC Price is hosting on November 14, "Global Solutions in the Age of Homegrown Violent Extremism," under the leadership of Dr. Erroll Southers, Director of the Safe Communities Institute. The Summit will bring together community organizations, NGO's, nonprofits, community safety groups, as well as global terrorism experts to discuss the growing issue of racially, religiously, and ideologically motivated homegrown violent extremism that fuels the violence we saw in Charlottesville, and many other communities this past year.

Connie Rice, famed civil rights attorney, activist, and co-founder of the Advancement Project, will help set the stage to understand how violent extremism is not only a global and national security concern, but more importantly, an expression of the growing social injustice we face here in the United States.

Policy Forums: Open Conversations

The Price School convenes a series of open conversations with our faculty experts to engage with students, staff, and faculty on current policy, governance, and social issues. For the fall semester we will address home grown violent extremism, the environment and climate change, and affordable housing and homelessness.