

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff:

Like many of you, I am deeply concerned about the situation in Texas, where more than 50 counties are affected by flooding and an estimated 30,000 people have sought emergency shelter.

The extent of the flooding is, in many ways, unimaginable. NPR reported yesterday that the area covered by floodwaters is the size of Lake Michigan, which is adjacent to my home state of Michigan. This, for me, was a particularly compelling and sobering image.

One of the most heartening things about a terrible situation such as this is the way in which people from across the country have stepped in to give aid. I'm especially mindful of local firefighters and volunteers and staff from a number of Los Angeles-based nonprofit organizations who are already on the ground or on their way to Houston.

Thirty-three Price students hail from the state of Texas, with at least four from the Houston area, and I'm sure many of us in the Price community have friends or family that are affected by this disaster. We think of them, and we look for ways to reach out and help.

From conversations I've had with a number of you, I know many of us in the Price community are looking for ways to be of assistance. After Hurricane Katrina, a number of Price planning faculty and students were involved in recovery plans; I expect there will be opportunities for our faculty and students to soon offer their expertise and assistance.

Until then, I believe one of the most helpful things we can do right now is to support organizations that are on the ground doing the rescue and relief work.

There are many worthwhile organizations providing relief and support in Texas. It would be impossible to list every effort being made, but I want to call your attention to two that seem to have great impact:

The first relief effort is a new fund started by Houston's Mayor Sylvester Turner, The Harvey Relief Fund, hosted by The Greater Houston Community Foundation. It serves as a clearinghouse for local nonprofits providing immediate relief to those displaced by Harvey, including food, shelter and clothing. For more information, go to:

<https://ghcfdisaster.kimbia.com/hurricaneharveyrelieffund>

The second is the American Red Cross, which has a strong 'on the ground' organization in the state, and is working to provide shelter and support for all of those who have been displaced. For more information, go to: <http://www.redcross.org>.



Some of you may know the CEO of the regional Red Cross office here in Los Angeles, Jarrett Barrios, who has been a guest lecturer in a number of our nonprofit courses at Price. He left this morning to assist in the relief efforts in Houston, and will post a daily blog on what the Red Cross is doing in the area. Jarrett's blog can be found at: <http://redcrosslatalks.org/2017/08/28/hearts-open-after-the-storm/>

Over the next few days and weeks, there may be other opportunities for the School community to provide support and assistance. If you become aware of any special needs or ways in which we can be as a community can be of specific help to those affected, I invite you to share those with me.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack H. Knott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jack H. Knott

Dean, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy