



COLLEGE OF
MOUNT SAINT VINCENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 18, 2021

Dear Students and Colleagues,

I write today to acknowledge the recent attacks on Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) across the country. The shootings in the Atlanta area this week are frightening, tragic, and just one example of the many acts of violence against the AAPI community that have occurred over the past year during the pandemic. A [New York Times article](#) on March 17 noted that there have been nearly 3,800 hate incidents in the past year toward Asian-Americans.

As I shared in my [statement](#) on January 7, 2021, the College of Mount Saint Vincent's mission calls us to "*foster an understanding of our common humanity, a commitment to human dignity, and a full appreciation of our obligations to each other.*" I know that I am not alone when I say that we must stand in support of the AAPI members of our Mount community. Together we must not just discourage racism, but intentionally work to be anti-racist. With this in mind, I have begun conversations with members of the Senior Administration team and others to establish a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee on our campus that will include representation from students, faculty, staff, and administration. Please stay tuned for more information about the membership and charge for this new Committee in the coming weeks. Until then, know that we must continue to work together to support our AAPI students and colleagues who may feel especially threatened by recent events, as well as Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color (BIPOC) CMSV community members who have also experienced personal and systemic racism.

With care, concern, and continued commitment to our mission and values,

Susan R. Burns, Ph.D.
President