

DATE: February 16, 2026
TO: The Claremont Colleges Community
FROM: Melinda Heikkinen, AVP and Director of Campus Safety and Emergency Services
SUBJECT: Commitment to Our Community and Assurance on Immigration Concerns

I recognize the anxiety and concern that many may be feeling about immigration related issues. For some, these concerns touch on deeply personal matters involving family, friends, and their own sense of belonging within our community.

I want to be unequivocal in stating that The Claremont Colleges Campus Safety Department is committed to serving our community with integrity, compassion, and professionalism. Immigration status is not, and will not be, a matter for Campus Safety. Our role is to support and protect the well-being of every individual who lives, works, and learns at The Claremont Colleges, regardless of immigration status.

In fulfilling this mission, we operate with the fundamental understanding that every member of this community has inherent dignity and deserves to feel safe and respected. This commitment is not only a reflection of our core values but also a deeply personal commitment from me as the Director of Campus Safety.

Just to be clear, The Claremont Colleges Campus Safety Department does not and will not assist in any immigration-related enforcement or issues. Our role is focused solely on ensuring the safety, security, and well-being of our community members. We do not inquire about, document, or take any action based on an individual's immigration status. This is not within our scope of responsibility, and it is not aligned with our mission to provide unbiased and equitable support to all members of The Claremont Colleges. Our commitment is to serve and protect every individual, regardless of their background or immigration status, and to foster an environment where all feel safe and supported.

Please know that Campus Safety will remain focused on fostering an environment where everyone feels secure and valued, especially during times when external circumstances might heighten feelings of vulnerability. I encourage you to reach out to me or my team if you have any questions or need assistance.

Together, we can continue to build a supportive and inclusive community that reflects the values we hold dear.