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**Message from President Armstrong**

1 message

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Reply-To: "PresidentsOffice@calpoly.edu" <PresidentsOffice@calpoly.edu>

Fri, Oct 13, 2023 at 5:46 PM

## Office of the President

To the Campus Community:

On Thursday I sent you a message that was meant to reassure, but it failed badly in that effort. I know that many of you are in pain because of the horrific loss of innocent lives in Israel, as well as Gaza, and I am so sorry to have added to your burden in any way.

My message did not address the issues, the humanity, and I sincerely apologize for the hurt that I know it caused many of you – especially those in our Jewish and other communities. We can always recognize each other's pain and act to ease each other's sorrow, and that is what I should have done (and what CSU Chancellor Garcia does well in her statement <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/news/Pages/chancellor-statement-israel-2023.aspx>). Each of you is a precious part of this community.

It is difficult for the university to make a statement about everything that touches the lives and hearts of our community, but some events are so morally compelling that we are moved by our common humanity to speak about them. The attack on Israel by Hamas is one of those events. The terrorist attacks were morally wrong and repugnant.

In our own campus community, and also deeply disturbing, two of our Jewish students were targeted in an alleged hate crime of intimidation earlier this week. It sickens me that something like this would happen on

our campus. These acts of hate targeting valued members of our campus are unacceptable and reprehensible. I urge you all to look out for each other and keep each other close during this vulnerable and painful time for so many in our community. Anyone with information regarding this incident or any other crimes occurring on campus, call campus police at (805) 756-2281 or 911 in an emergency.

I hope that those of you who have family or friends in Israel or Gaza have been able to contact them, and that they are safe and well. If any of you have been personally affected by the violence, I offer my condolences and my sympathy. Please know that counseling services are available for Cal Poly students 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by calling 805-756-2511. Please do not hesitate to contact them. More information is available on the Campus Health & Wellbeing website (<https://chw.calpoly.edu/counseling>). Faculty and staff can access the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which provides confidential counseling services to all Cal Poly employees and their household members. To speak with a counselor at any time, please call their 24-hour support hotline at 800-367-7474. More information about EAP's confidential services is available here (<https://afd.calpoly.edu/hr/employee-resources/work-life>)

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Armstrong  
President

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