

Peralta ESOL Advisory Council Statement in Response to the 2016 Election

The Peralta ESOL Advisory Council endorses the following statement by the BCC Ethnic Studies Department. We stand together with our student communities against xenophobia, racism, Islamophobia, sexism, homophobia, and any other attempts to divide and dehumanize others:

We believe it is important and necessary at this juncture to publicly affirm our commitment to a vision of social justice in and out of the classroom.

This is not business as usual. The results of the election have catapulted a white nationalist sexual predator to the highest office of the nation after running a campaign predicated upon the promise of deporting Mexicans en masse, of registering Muslims, of imposing restrictions upon women's health care, and so much more, and so much worse—and this has emboldened his followers to act in kind.

We refuse to normalize this. We refuse to accept this. We recognize the dangers inherent in doing so. Our collective histories remind us: of Jim Crow segregation and Japanese-American incarceration; of Chinese exclusion and Depression-era repatriation; of Indian removal and relocation; of lynching and sexual violence; of slavery and genocide.

We do not know what to expect in the weeks, months, and years ahead. While we all hope for the best we must prepare for the worst. All of us will be affected by what is yet to come. Those of us who belong to the most vulnerable populations will be the first to bear the brunt of these changes: the undocumented, with or without DACA protections; gay, lesbian, and transgender people; Muslims, and those from Islamic countries; people-of-color.

We will do everything in our power to protect you and your communities. It will not be enough.

We affirm your right to safety, for yourselves and your families and your communities. We affirm your right to be here in the face of the unknown threats yet to come. We affirm your right to full participation in society regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or citizenship status. We affirm your right to an education. We want you to know that we are together in this struggle.

Ethnic Studies at Berkeley City College

Ethnic Studies

African American Studies

Mexican/Latin American Studies

Asian American Studies