

Office of the Dean  
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SAN DIEGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

July 20, 2020

Wilma J. Wooten, MD, MPH  
Public Health Officer  
County of San Diego  
3851 Rosecrans Street  
San Diego, CA 92110

Dear Dr. Wooten,

On Behalf of San Diego State University, we would like to thank you for your leadership during this public health pandemic. We know the daily decisions you make on behalf of our fellow San Diego County residents are difficult. However, these decisions were implemented early using sound scientific data and had a measurable impact on reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

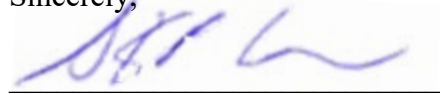
Throughout this pandemic, you have demonstrated courage in tackling issues of equity and social justice, especially in our most impacted, underrepresented communities. As a proud Hispanic-Serving Institution, your commitment to these communities has a meaningful impact on our students and our employees.

We are proud to partner with the San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) as [part of a new contract](#) where our faculty will both train and recruit community health workers and students to support the county's disease control activities through contact tracing. This is an example of your proactive efforts during this unprecedented period and your engagement of partners throughout the community to fight this pandemic together.

The harassments and threats you recently received are unwarranted and undermine the tireless work both you and your colleagues at the HHSA continue to carry out. We encourage our San Diego neighbors to come together to help slow the spread of COVID-19 by wearing masks and adhering to the recommended physical distancing guidelines, which are shown by research to reduce the spread. We know the pandemic is not unique to San Diego; this is a global pandemic. With that in mind, we urge our fellow San Diegans to be unified in the fight to combat this virus by coming together through individual action during a time when health guidelines restrict us from physically coming

together. As researchers, colleagues in the medical field and members of this community, we support the work of the HHSA and the work you are doing on behalf of the greater San Diego community.

Sincerely,



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Steven Hooker, PhD, FACSM, FNAK  
Dean, College of Health and Human  
Services

  
[Mark Reed \(Jul 17, 2020 16:27 PDT\)](#)

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Mark Reed, PhD  
Associate Dean, Research Affairs  
College of Health and Human Services



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Sonja Pruitt-Lord, PhD  
Associate Dean, Academic Affairs  
College of Health and Human Services



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Matthew Mahar, PhD  
Director, Exercise and Nutritional Sciences  
College of Health and Human Services



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Hala Madanat, PhD  
Director, School of Public Health  
College of Health and Human Services

  
[Philip A. Greiner \(Jul 19, 2020 15:17 PDT\)](#)

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Phil Greiner, PhD  
Director, School of Nursing  
College of Health and Human Services



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Tracy Love-Geffen, PhD  
Director, School of Speech, Language, and  
Hearing Sciences  
College of Health and Human Services



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JongWon Min, PhD  
Director, School of Social Work  
College of Health and Human Services



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Libby Skiles  
Director, Student Health Services  
San Diego State University