

Dear Oakes students:

We envision a college that will nourish, ignite, challenge, and love you.

We dream of a college that values you and will see you for who you are. You can be yourself here. You will construct your own narrative. You belong here. You earned your place here through hard work and merit, perhaps with the support of others. We dream of a college that allows you to come as you are and leave a deeper and more empowered *you*.

We will create trust with you by being transparent, authentic, and honest about our intentions. This depends upon understanding our own identities within UC Santa Cruz and our society at large. Moreover, these values require that we are mindful, aware, and understanding of your life circumstances and how they will play key roles in your experiences in college.

To support you, we will invest in a meaningful relationship with you. We will treat you fairly when we meet. We will honor and respect you as a person: a person who brings with you hopes, dreams, and challenges that we may not know about, but that are real and important. We will listen to you, hear you, and push you. We will challenge you, be your critical friend, and be here for you. We will help you problem-solve and find resources. We will hold your hand if necessary and have your back no matter what. We will sit with you and help you find a way to your dreams. We will let you make mistakes so that you can learn and grow. We will be honest and forthright when obstacles present themselves, and we will assist you with the difficulties that you may encounter. We will show up, be critical, care, and embrace and work with your setbacks, if they occur. We will make sure to listen carefully to where you want us to show up so that we may be effective accomplices in your process. We will advocate for you. We will celebrate with you. We will nurture your hopes and imagination. Most importantly, we will love you. Love is an act of courage and bravery. Love generates freedom and therefore entails a commitment to liberation, which includes our devotion to you.

We dream of a college that pushes you to critically challenge traditional power, think structurally, and de-construct classism, racism, sexism, ableism, heteropatriarchy, and other forms of oppression that persist in our lives. We dream of a college that shows you how to build coalitions so that those who have faced oppression, and those who have not, can work together toward liberation. Our hopes and dreams for you are to better understand your own power as a person within our community, to engage injustice within and outside of you, and feel supported and loved on our paths to liberation. We dream of a college that inspires you to make a difference in your own life and in the lives of others. We hope that you will become an agent for change and social justice. We want you to be an active member of society. We want you to love all peoples deeply and boldly.

Our hopes and dreams are for you to have an unobstructed equitable education. As a faculty and staff, we commit to engaging in institutional change, and we will invite you to do this with us. We will continue to fight for you to have opportunities. We will challenge systems and discourse

that are barriers to your possibilities. We will reconstruct a university that honors your strengths, resilience and the assets that you and your families bring to our community. We will do all we can to ensure that this institution changes itself instead of thinking that you are the one who needs to change. We will collaborate to untangle the powers that have historically oppressed. We will be brave and unapologetic in our work against unjust policies and practices.

We are honored to have you join in on the Oakes College mission with us, for yourself, for your family, and for all of humanity. With reverence to our predecessors, commitment to the urgency of the present moment, and steadfast hope for the future: welcome, and we love you.

In Solidarity,
Travarus Fauntleroy
Asako Kinase-Leggett
Regina Langhout
Sara Radoff
Danny Rodriguez