

Dear Graduate Students,

The UC Merced Graduate Student Association is deeply disappointed about the defacement of the Graduate Cultural Resource Center (GCRC) that has occurred over the past two weeks. The cultural, demographic, and ideological diversity of our graduate community truly makes us special. These safe/brave/cultural spaces on campus support our diversity and its inherent benefits.

In concurrence with UC Merced's Principles of Community, we affirm the right of all graduate students to an education free of harassment based on race, religion, ability, gender, sexual orientation, or income. We support our students and take issues related to climate, equity, diversity and inclusion seriously. We strongly condemn the cowardly actions of those who vandalized these spaces and the blatant racism of these individuals. We support and stand in solidarity with the GCRC.

For those who have been particularly affected by this tragedy, please keep in mind the resources available on campus:

Campus Police - 209-228-2677

Campus Ombuds Office - 209-228-4410

CAPS Services - 209-228-4266

Office of Student Conduct - studentconduct@ucmerced.edu

Police Advisory Board - Elisabeth Gunter, egunther@ucmerced.edu

Climate, Diversity and Equity Officer of GSA - Tashelle Wright, twright8@ucmerced.edu

Respectfully,

UC Merced Graduate Student Association