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USC

Office of the Vice
President of Student Affairs

Dear Students,

Congratulations to each of you as you complete this fall semester. You have been the lifeblood of our University, and we continue to support you and the dedication you have shown as new and returning scholars to USC.

We also continue to look forward – to spring semester, and to how we can continue to develop, improve, and enhance our culture. We are committed as leaders, staff and faculty, to making your student experience the best it can be. We are committed to being our best as Trojans.

The foundation for this lies with our University's values. Defining and embracing our USC Values – what makes us Trojans – can have a profound impact on our culture. This past year, you and our entire community were invited to participate in the USC Culture Journey, a time for critical reflection on our values and who we are as a University.

On November 16, 2020, President Folt [sent an email](#) to the USC community announcing our **six unifying values** that will guide our actions as we unite to achieve our mission. I am excited to reiterate her message and affirm my commitment to upholding them. As Trojans we will:

Act with **integrity** in the pursuit of **excellence**. Embrace **diversity, equity and inclusion** and promote **well-being**. Engage in **open communication** and be **accountable** for living our values.

- **Integrity:** We do the right thing
- **Excellence:** We bring our best selves
- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:** We all belong
- **Well-being:** We honor the whole person
- **Open Communication:** We share openly and honestly
- **Accountability:** We take responsibility

Over 24,000 in our community contributed to sharing their perspectives on desired values via the USC Values Poll and culture sessions. As students, you had a significant impact on shaping our values. You shared what was important to you, as students, in who we are and how we act, our behaviors that define and make us USC Trojans, and those areas in your schools and across USC in which you saw opportunities to improve.

You gave your time and insights toward paving the way for change at USC. For that, I am grateful.

For each of you as students, our USC Values will instill foundational principles at this critical juncture in your personal development. Values help guide your individual and collective actions, decision-making, and character. When we live our values through our actions, we become a stronger, better USC community and Trojan family.

Announcing these values is just the beginning. We heard from you very specific recommended actions to improve and enhance our University-wide systems and processes. As President Folt mentioned in her message, efforts to address your recommendations are underway, with more to come.

I am excited to be at this point. Stay tuned to hear more about culture activities open to you and our community, to share, discuss and support the living of our values.

Thank you for your commitment to the Culture Journey at USC!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Winston B. Crisp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Winston B. Crisp
Vice President for Student Affairs

Explore more about our values, definitions, and supporting behaviors at <https://change.usc.edu/files/2020/11/USC-Values-November-2020-Final-2.pdf>.

Visit the values website at <https://change.usc.edu/usc-cultural-values-poll/>.

Email partnerforculturechange@usc.edu to receive in-depth updates on our culture change.

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