



THANKSGIVING AND WINTER QUARTER ANNOUNCEMENT
A MESSAGE FROM
JOSEPH CAMBRAY, PH.D.
PRESIDENT/CEO, PACIFICA GRADUATE INSTITUTE

November 25, 2020

Dear Pacifica Community,

The Thanksgiving holiday is upon us, and I hope you have made plans for safe celebrations with family, friends, and loved ones. This will likely be the most unusual and unique Thanksgiving in our experience as it will involve reduced or virtual gatherings for many of us. We are also taking to heart the CDC's recommendation not to travel this season to help contain the spread of the novel coronavirus. I would urge us to keep health and safety foremost in mind and to abide by this request, while celebrating as fully as possible. Moving more fully into our core values, may we also take this holiday to reflect on the deep pain caused by the colonization of Indigenous peoples, as well as the many still struggling under systems of oppression or the circumstances of our pandemic, including those within our Pacifica community.

Looking ahead, we have received news regarding the winter quarter; Pacifica will be able to remain as we currently are, with remote delivery of programs, at least through the winter quarter 2021. On one hand, it is a relief to know we can remain safe, sheltering in place while continuing classes as scheduled but, on the other hand, it is a disappointment, especially for students who will finish their studies this winter without a chance to return to classes on campus. We feel for these students' loss of those enriching and celebratory moments together on the physical grounds, and we will continue looking to hold those opportunities for meaningful connection virtually. My fervent hope is that when we are finally able to reopen the campuses, we will hold a gala reopening launch with quality time set aside for those who are not able to attend their last sessions in person. Details will follow as the pandemic resolves, and we are able to make more specific decisions about reopening.

This week has also seen major national developments. President-elect Joe Biden's election victory is now being certified and his administration's transition is officially underway. Concerning this, I want to bring to your attention a few select passages from the acceptance speeches of Vice President-elect Kamala Harris and President-elect Joe Biden, delivered on November 7th, 2020, that whatever one's political leaning, I found to be in close harmony with Pacifica's mission, vision, and goals for the future:

Kamala Harris refers first to her mother and then to Joe Biden about values that align with the *anima mundi*:

So, I'm thinking about her and about the generations of women — Black women, Asian, white, Latina, and Native American women throughout our nation's history who have paved the way for this moment tonight....Joe is a healer. A uniter . A tested and steady hand. A person whose own experience of loss gives him a sense of purpose that will help us as a nation reclaim our own sense of purpose.... And what a testament it is to Joe's character that he had the audacity to break one of the most substantial barriers that exists in our country and select a woman as his vice president....But while I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last, because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities. And to the children of our country, regardless of your gender, our country has sent you a clear message.

Joe Biden then made a statement that echoes in the heart of a contemporary depth psychological approach, rooted in systemic thinking, which sees beyond the surface of things into hidden connections that link us and our world by its holistic vision:

...what is the will of the people? What is our mandate?....I believe it's this: Americans have called upon us to marshal the forces of decency and the forces of fairness. To marshal the forces of science and the forces of hope in the great battles of our time: The battle to control the virus. The battle to build prosperity. The battle to secure your family's health care. The battle to achieve racial justice and root out systemic racism in this country. And the battle to save our planet by getting climate under control. The battle to restore decency, defend democracy and give everybody in this country a fair shot. That's all they're asking for — a fair shot.

As we celebrate this Thanksgiving holiday, let us be grateful for the new vision emerging in our country that may help us better understand and face the challenge we collectively face. There is much work to do, together.

In communitate and gratitude,



Joseph Cambray, Ph.D.
President/CEO