



PACIFICA
GRADUATE INSTITUTE

Message of Greeting & Gratitude from President & CEO,
Leonie Mattison, EdD, MBA

October 26, 2022



Dear Pacifica Students,

Greetings! I am honored to serve the Pacifica community as your new President and CEO. Let me first express profound gratitude for the fulfilling, warm, and kind welcome I have received so far. It's been wonderful interacting with many Pacifica students, staff, faculty, and friends over these past three weeks – and I look forward to other opportunities ahead to connect with you.

As we head deeper into this fall, the change of seasons reflects both the transformation and the preservation we seek at Pacifica. The unity of our common purpose of "*tending the soul of and in the world*" guides us as we look into the future.

I'm encouraged by the remarkable contributions of every faculty that teaches here, every student that studies here, and each staff member that works here! We remain deeply committed to ensuring that you, our students, receive an exceptional education and build on the growing impact Pacifica has on the world.

Two weekends ago as part of our Portals to the Imaginal Conference, we had the honor of celebrating Dr. Stephen Aizenstat, Founder and Chancellor Emeritus of Pacifica Graduate Institute, and all that has been achieved over the past 45+ years, including Dr. Cambrey's recent tenure. As we look toward the next 45 years, I am excited about the endless possibilities.

While there is so much to say, I want to discuss two key topics below that I am focusing on for the start of my time as President and CEO.

Listening, Learning, and Connecting Tour

Stephen Covey once said, "Seek first to understand, then to be understood." I want to build trust by listening to understand Pacifica's points of pride, power, and possibilities, so we can create

and implement a shared vision that propels us to the next level. That is why I launched the 100 Days of Listening, Learning, and Connecting Tour, as I outlined during [my first day address](#). *(see link for a video of the address and more about my background and first 100-day).*

The student's voice matters to me and there will be two avenues for you to participate in the Listening, Learning, and Connecting Tour.

- Student 'Meet and Greets' and Focus Conversations – We are currently outlining a plan and schedule for hybrid group discussions and 'meet and greets' with students over the coming weeks. While I may not be able to meet with each of you individually during these meetings, I hope to engage with you during community speaking engagements and on-campus events and sessions.
- Online Questionnaire Form – The form can be accessed to share your thoughts if you cannot attend one of the scheduled sessions or would like to leave reflections in writing. You can access this questionnaire through the 100 days webpage to be launched shortly.

We're already off to a great start, completing 15 days of listening, learning, and connecting sessions with almost 100 internal stakeholders. I'm excited to continue to listen, learn, and connect with you and have another 11 sessions scheduled through the end of October. As a reminder, I will always listen to your thoughts and concerns long after my "Listening, Learning and Connecting Tour" has concluded.

Communications Renewal

The Executive Leadership Team and I are committed to more collaborative communication with the Pacifica community. We are committed to open communication regarding ongoing challenges, as well as proactively sharing updates on exciting opportunities and developments happening at Pacifica. Over the coming weeks, we will roll out new ways of engaging with students on news and updates, which will be housed in the forthcoming Office of the President's webpage. We hope to release communications regarding the policies and details around the upcoming winter quarter in the near future. Please keep a watch out for these updates.

As we look to tend to the soul of the world, we know there are many challenges in communities here and abroad. Like so many of you, my heart continues to break as brave Iranian women face violence in their fight for freedom, while I am excited that generations of people rise to stand up for their right to vote here in the United States. Collectively, in the Pacifica community, we stand for compassion and engage in the fight for human rights across the globe.

Our renewed focus on Pacifica as a student-first institution allows us to continue building on our rich history, scholarship, renowned faculty, and outstanding achievements. We will recommit ourselves to student success, shared governance, continuous improvement, research innovation,

and community engagement. We will create a path forward that illuminates our values, mission, and aspirations.

I look forward to our ongoing communications and collaboration. Please forward your questions or concerns to the Office of the President via email (President@pacific.edu). Please continue to take care of yourselves and each other.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lee Mathison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "n".

Dr. Lee
President & CEO, Pacifica Graduate Institute