



PACIFICA
GRADUATE INSTITUTE

LA Fires - Sharing Care, Support, and Resources to the Pacifica Community
A Message from Dr. Lee, President & CEO

January 10, 2025

Dear Pacifica Community,

Once again, we find ourselves facing the devastating reality of wildfires in Southern California—fires that have caused deep loss, displacement, and heartbreak for so many in the Los Angeles region. [Governor Newsom's declaration of a State of Emergency](#) is helping to mobilize important resources, but it is the care we show one another and the strength of communities that truly reminds us we are not alone.

The Pacifica community carries a deep understanding of the pain these events bring. Many of our Pacifica members—students, faculty, staff, and alumni—live, work, and have connections to the areas now impacted by these fires. We have already begun to hear heartbreaking stories of homes lost, families affected, and lives disrupted. Our thoughts and hearts are with them and with everyone facing this unimaginable challenge.

In times like these, we are reminded of the strength of coming together. While we hold space for the grief and uncertainty these fires bring, we are also actively exploring ways to offer tangible support to those in need. Let us continue to extend care, compassion, and a commitment to helping each other navigate this difficult time. Together, we will find a way forward.

An [LA Wildfires Information and Resources webpage](#) has been created on our website and will be updated as more information and support opportunities are developed and available. Please visit the page for updates on campus status and safety, academic continuity and options, mental health support, fire updates, and relief effort resources and involvement. Your safety and well-being are our top priorities. If you are affected by the fire, please reach out to your Program Chair or Supervisor as soon as you are able. We appreciate the work of our programs and offices in communicating with those impacted who have notified us and in mobilizing support. Students can also refer to today's communication from Student Services Office, which includes more information on the available resources and policy updates.

As an Institute committed to addressing the personal, collective, and planetary crises of our time, we turn to the soul for its guidance in how to respond to these situations and to

the daily heartache we may be witness individually, culturally, and ecologically. Let us trust that the work we do here at Pacifica, in whatever capacity, provides a context, language, and an environment for exploring these questions and finding solutions that feel supportive and actionable. In the face of tragedy and unease, may our Institute continue to serve as a place of support, comfort, and compassion, for those within our community and those we touch beyond it.

With heartfelt care and hope,

Dr. Lee

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leonie Mattison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leonie" and last name "Mattison" clearly legible.

Dr. Leonie H. Mattison, Ed.D, MBA
President and CEO

