

To the editor:

This week, Clackamas Community College made national news. Not for showcasing the vital resource we are to the community, but because a political organization took advantage of our large parking lots.

On Labor Day, the Oregon for Trump 2020 group organized what was supposed to be a cruise to the capitol. They selected our Oregon City campus as its gathering point. As vehicles swarmed our campus, a rally ensued prior to their departure. Once at the capitol, racist behavior and violence occurred.

We condemn violence and racism. We did not invite rally participants to be on our campus. Unlike the Red Cross, which used our campus as an evacuation center this week, rally participants did not ask for or receive permission to use our campus. The conduct of rally participants made college employees, students and community members feel unsafe.

CCC's mission is to provide high-quality education to all members of our community. Further, our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is to make CCC a place where all feel welcome, supported and empowered. The college will not compromise on these overarching values.

The CCC Board of Education is not pleased about the negative impact this rally had on the college community. As a college, we value and support the freedom of speech and expression, but such activities must follow our established procedures and ensure the safety of and respect for others. The Labor Day rally is not reflective of who we are and what we care about. As a Board, we will continue to denounce hate and divisiveness and stand up for all members of our community.

Clackamas Community College Board of Education:

Greg Chaimov, Board chair, Milwaukie

Rob Wheeler, Happy Valley

Dave Hunt, Gladstone

Chris Groener, Oregon City

Jane Reid, Estacada

Irene Konev, Canby