



To members of the San Diego State University community and our extended family,

During my career, I often addressed campus safety issues. In the past month, many of my leadership team have been involved in conversations with SDSU students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, trustees, and community members. Most recently, we have heard your concerns about a wide range of topics connected to student safety, both on our campus and in the broader context of colleges and universities across the U.S.

We know from institutional research that SDSU students tend to drink less on average than those in their peer group on other college campuses. However, alcohol and other drug misuse remain a persistent problem contributing to negative social, academic and health-related issues for some of our students. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism has noted that underage drinking at college is a national public health problem.

All of the above has informed my decision to launch two task force groups to analyze and offer recommendations on evidence-based actions we can take to improve student safety as a collective community.

We have launched an SDSU web page with information about the two task force groups, their membership and other details. More information will be added as the two groups progress in their work. Please visit <https://president.sdsu.edu/moving-forward/task-force-groups> to learn more.

Each of us – students, faculty, staff and campus visitors – has a responsibility to ensure a safe and welcoming campus for all. We are calling for a collective cultural change on our campus and hope to impact the national dialogue around these issues. I encourage you to share your feedback and ideas to help shape this conversation through the website's [feedback form](#). Your input will be shared with members of both task force groups.

I also offer my sincere appreciation and thanks to each member of the groups, and to all those who will contribute to this discussion to lead the way forward for our campus community.

Adela de la Torre  
President, San Diego State University