

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Video Title: National Day of Racial Healing 2026

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Andrew Jones: Hello, I'm Andrew Jones, President of Cal State Long Beach.

Today, January 20, we join communities across the country in observing the National Day of Racial Healing, a time to reflect on our shared humanity, to recommit ourselves to mutual understanding, and to being a force for good in the world.

Hosted by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, this observance is an opportunity to strengthen our community by promoting a culture of care and inclusive excellence – an essential part of who we are and who we aspire to be here at The Beach.

Our campus honors this day by focusing on our broader community. Through the work of our Office of Truth, Community, Healing, and Transformation – and all those who contribute to this work – we're enlarging our capacity for empathy, we're strengthening campus partnerships, and we're living our values. When we face challenges, it's in community where we find strength and comfort.

Our campus is a transformational space where people come to learn, grow, and pursue their greatest dreams. Together, we safeguard this space and ensure that every member of our community feels supported and has the opportunity to thrive.

Now is the time to focus on what unites us, to celebrate each other, and to honor the strength and resilience that define The Beach.

Karyn Scissum Gunn: As we honor the intentions of today, I'm reminded of the profound power of sharing our stories – and listening deeply to the stories of others. It's in our stories that we find connection and the common threads of our humanity. Through the exchange of honest reflections and a willingness to listen compassionately to one another, we learn we're not alone in our experiences – and this is a key to healing. As Dr. Gail C. Christopher shared, we gain a heartfelt awareness, appreciation, and understanding of our interconnectedness. We move from being divided to wholeness, from separateness to unity.

At The Beach, one way we hope to facilitate community healing and transformation is through our Community Building Circles – offered through the Office of Truth, Community,

Healing, and Transformation. Community Building Circles provide intentional space for this kind of connection. Rooted in the rich traditions of Indigenous and Native American cultures, these circles invite us to engage in storytelling and to listen, reflect on, and experience the power of healing together.

We thank Thalia Gomez, Director of Tribal Relations, for her guidance in helping us develop our Community Building Circles, and we honor these traditions respectfully and authentically.

The circles are transformative. One participant shared:

“...[The circle] reminded me that I am not alone. It helped me feel seen again, grounded, and part of something beautiful: a community. It gave me language and different perspectives to carry on in these times...Most importantly, it helped me come back to myself and to my work with more clarity, purpose, and sense that what I bring matters to our students and our communities.”

Community Building Circles allow us to better understand each other's experiences – our triumphs, challenges, hopes, and aspirations – all that defines our humanity – to cultivate healing and build trust. This trust has the potential to transform us and our relationships, enabling us to collaborate effectively in pursuit of our individual goals and shared mission: to support the success of ALL our students, staff, and faculty.

If you're interested in learning more about Community Building Circles, or would like to explore hosting one for your team, please reach out to the Provost's Office. We'd be glad to support you in creating intentional space to pause, reflect, and connect.

Text on screen: Provost Office contact: Catherine.Ward@csulb.edu

Andrew Jones: Today, we are called upon to reflect on who we are as a community and what we can achieve – together. We are reminded that compassion, care, and shared purpose are daily commitments that sustain us as individuals and as a university.

Let's continue to do all we can to make this a place where every member of The Beach community feels seen, valued, and supported.

Thank you, take care, and Go Beach.