

TADOHE Family,

Yesterday was a difficult day for our nation. Over the last 24 hours, the news, as well as social media has been dominated by the events that transpired in Washington DC over the presidential election results. I will honestly say that I found it hard to concentrate and focus on my work as I felt compelled to continuously access information and updates on the sad and appalling events that unfolded at the Capitol. What transpired at the Capitol complex was not merely wanton acts by a few instigators, it was a direct assault on our democracy by seditious actors.

Seeds of mistrust in our democratic process were sown in an effort to overturn the will of the people in an election process that was by all reasonable measures conducted freely and fairly. The falsehoods and conspiracies rejected by the courts were intended to undermine the people's voice, particularly BIPOC voices. However, the people's voice did and will ultimately prevail.

As a result of this protracted and unsettling election process you may now be experiencing the stirring of heightened emotions, anxiety and uncertainty. The 2020 election season has certainly been a source of stress for many of us, particularly since we have been navigating the stress and grief of a global pandemic. Please know that the TADOHE community is ever so important during times like these. I encourage you to check in on one another and extend compassion and kindness to yourselves.

TADOHE is a community of professionals committed to educational and societal justice and we know that the democratic process is one of the fundamental and sacred elements of justice. Therefore, as the Chair of our Texas Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education I want to clearly state to our members that the malicious acts incited, to advance what was tantamount to a coup, were shameful and deplorable. There must be consequences for who provoked the riotous and dangerous efforts to dismantle our electoral process and to undermine the stability of our government.

Regardless of how your emotional response to these events manifests, it is important to take a step back and consider what you need to do to take care of yourself at this time. Check out the news and announcements link where you can find some tips on ways to help you manage your election stress or any anxiety you are experiencing at this time. Please be safe, keep the faith and remain courageous.

Sincerely,  
Sherri Benn, PhD  
TADOHE Chair