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Dear Ms. Lawrence and Ms. Gaylor,

Thank you for bringing to our attention the concerns of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) regarding the National Junior Honors Society induction ceremony at Feather River Charter School. We take these allegations very seriously and are committed to ensuring that all events at our school are inclusive and respectful of all students and their families.

We launched an investigation into the incident and sent an immediate apology to all involved in the online ceremony. We acknowledge the right of all students to be free from religious indoctrination in public schools, and we regret that some of our students and families may have felt alienated by the remarks made by this guest speaker, Mr. Leikauf.

As a nonsectarian charter school, we recognize that the message conveyed by Mr. Leikauf's speech was not in line with our values and policies. Going forward, we will take steps to ensure that all guest speakers are aware of our school's nonsectarian policy and are briefed on appropriate conduct while addressing our students. Feather River will preview all future speeches to be delivered to our students, ensuring that guest speakers are properly vetted and refrain from promoting their religious views in a manner that could be deemed as discriminatory or offensive. We will also provide training to our staff on how to handle situations where guest speakers cross the line and make inappropriate or offensive remarks.

We appreciate the opportunity to address this matter and reassure our students and families that we are committed to promoting a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environment for all. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further concerns.

Sincerely,

Jenell Sherman  
Executive Director