



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

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Presidential Statements Responding to Post-Election Campus Tensions

The College of New Jersey

From: **R. Barbara Gitenstein, President** <none.given@tcnj.edu>

Date: Wed, Nov 9, 2016 at 2:15 PM

Subject: [TCNJ Official Email] A Message from the President

To: TCNJ Campus Community <undisclosed-recipients@tcnj.edu>

As this emotional and divisive presidential election process comes to a close, all citizens of the country are faced with a complex of mixed emotions. Whatever our political affiliations, we must be committed to positive action in our lives and in our community. Specifically, we at TCNJ must reaffirm our commitments, including those most recently expressed in the first priority in our Strategic Plan: to “Attract and retain talented students, faculty and staff into a diverse, inclusive and healthy community.” During my welcome back address in August, recognizing the highly charged political rhetoric that surrounded us, I challenged the community to engage in difficult discussions and to do so with special attention to our shared commitment to civil disagreement. We will disagree; we have disagreed; but we must do so in such a way that enhances not discourages communication.

Many of you recently engaged with staff from the Sustained Dialogue Institute as we were preparing to implement plans on the campus for coming together in productive conversation. With a sense of even greater urgency, I hope that in our discussions we express respect and caring for all members of our community and that we genuinely listen to one another. We must be particularly sensitive to those who see the world through a different lens than our own and those whose situation might be less protected/privileged than our own. As I said early this fall, these discussions will be difficult, but little that is worthwhile is accomplished in simplistic formulae. I look forward to being a part of those and other conversations to move our campus and nation forward.

Sincerely,

R. Barbara Gitenstein
President

Ramapo College of New Jersey

Available online here: <http://us12.campaign-archive1.com/?u=2e8496e9daf42efb3ce962d96&id=44c8fe471f&e=de3a454844>

Dear Students, Colleagues, and Friends,

Individuals, departments, and organizations across the country and across our campus are

www.njascu.org

*The College of New Jersey
Kean University
Montclair State University*

*New Jersey City University
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Rowan University*

*Stockton University
Thomas Edison State University
William Paterson University*

engaging in dialogues centered around the presidential election. For those of you participating in these discussions, thank you. And, for those of you who may feel anxious, discouraged, or even dispassionate about the societal impact of this election cycle, I encourage you to reject the false comfort of isolation and instead to engage with your peers, colleagues, faculty, and staff in ways that promote **mutual understanding** and **respect**. We all, always, have something to learn and something to share.

Today is Veteran's Day. After a tumultuous week, it is fitting to reflect more deeply on its historical significance. On November 11, 1918 fighting between the allied nations and Germany ceased on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The resolution passed by the United States Congress in 1926 which established Veteran's Day includes, in pertinent part:

*...the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through **good will** and **mutual understanding** between nations; and...*

*...inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of **friendly relations with all other peoples**.*

As we look to the future of America and, more locally to our campus, it is imperative that we continue to hold fast to these tenets of **good will, mutual understanding, and friendly relations with all peoples**. We cannot take for granted our institutional values which state, in part, that we are guided by:

Respecting each other and our environment—we are an open, inclusive, supportive, and sustainable community.

We advance our values through our **good will, mutual understanding, and friendly relations with all peoples**. To exhibit any behaviors that fail to honor these tenets and our values would be a transgression of the very principles for which Ramapo College of New Jersey has always served: to educate and to learn from one another.

The College's Values Statement was approved by the President's Advisory Council (PAC) in September. [It is available in full here.](#) The PAC will meet again on November 18 at 11AM in Trustees Pavilion. Its agenda will include an overview of the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, Compliance and Equity. All are welcome to attend PAC meetings.

Peter P. Mercer
President

Stockton University

From: Kesselman, Harvey
Sent: Saturday, November 19, 2016 9:12 AM
To: Faculty E-mail List <FacultyEmail@stockton.edu>; Staff E-mail List <StaffEmail@stockton.edu>
Subject: A Message to our Campus Community: What Stockton Values

Dear Members of the Stockton Community,

As we begin the Holiday season, I invite all of you to join me in reaffirming our commitment to sustain an environment where everyone feels welcome, safe, and supported. Stockton will always be committed to provide an environment of inclusiveness; where we value individual differences, and recognize how important having a diverse faculty, staff and student population is to the success of this institution.

Our community must do all it can to promote civility and respect when interacting with one another. Civility and respect promote the free exchange of ideas, and that is the hallmark of a great public institution of higher education.

Best regards,

Harvey Kesselman
President
Stockton University

William Paterson University

November 17, 2016

Dear William Paterson University Students, Faculty and Staff,

In recent days, I've spoken to many students, faculty and staff about the presidential election and the recent discourse in our country. I'm pleased to hear that faculty have provided opportunities for discussion and analysis in their classes, and I respect that students and faculty have chosen to express themselves in a peaceful manner. The free expression of ideas and opinions is a vital element of any campus community, and respectful dialogue is one of the values we embrace at William Paterson University.

As president, I want to emphasize, particularly to our students, that we value and promote the expression of the full range of diversity. Regardless of your political view, religious beliefs, ethnicity, race, gender identity, sexual orientation or nationality, the University will respect, support and endeavor to keep you safe while you express your views and pursue your education. Diversity is one of our core values, and as such, we seek to maintain a campus

culture that welcomes diversity of personal circumstances and experiences. We encourage debate and open dialogue but will not tolerate hate speech, threats of any kind, or actions that would cause any member of the campus to feel unsafe.

People have recently asked about their safety and privacy. Providing a safe and secure campus has always been and will be our priority. As we have done in the past, we will continue to protect student confidentiality and will not share private information unless we are required to do so by law or under a court order. The William Paterson University Campus Police do not and will not inquire about or record the citizenship status of students unless required by law or a court order. In addition, the University does not use E-verify for any purposes other than to comply with federal law regarding employment eligibility. William Paterson University does not inquire nor record the immigration status of students.

Students who feel anxious may always seek assistance from the University's Counseling, Health and Wellness Center, located on the first floor of Overlook South, or call 973-720-2257. Similarly, faculty and staff who wish to speak with a counselor can contact our CONCERN Employee Assistance Program at 800-242-7371.

Like all great universities, we are enriched by the wide range of ideas and opinions on campus and by our ability to learn from each other while understanding how to effectively and appropriately debate with those who disagree. Our commitment to our core values unites us, strengthens us, and will help us contribute to a better future for our country.

Kathleen Waldron
President
William Paterson University

Rutgers University

Available online at <https://www.facebook.com/RutgersU/posts/10155558199817575>

Dear Rutgers Students,

Respectful dialogue is at the heart of everything we do at Rutgers; indeed, it makes us great. Our right to free expression is weighty, it carries with it tremendous power and enormous responsibility.

A community as diverse as ours holds many different views – and we value them all. We celebrate our diverse racial, ethnic, and economic profile, and we embrace our political diversity. Just like we encourage students to reach out to understand people of other races, ethnicities, genders, or cultures, so, too, must we encourage understanding among students of differing political beliefs.

As President, I want to emphasize that Rutgers University stands together with all our students. No matter your political view, ethnicity, religious beliefs, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or nationality, you are first and foremost a Rutgers student, and you are owed our

respect, our support, and our best efforts to keep you safe and secure as you express your opinions and pursue your studies.

Our University is and must be a safe place for all people to live and learn – where students and others of all viewpoints may express their ideas with the full expectation that they will be heard and respected. Robust exchanges may not always be comfortable, but they must always be respectful.

We encourage those discussions. They make us stronger and more resilient. But please know that we expect those discussions to be civil; we will not tolerate hate speech, threats of physical harm or intimidation by anyone on any side of any discussion on our campuses.

Our chancellors have been providing opportunities for students to express themselves, to share their concerns publicly and to speak privately with professionals to answer personal or legal concerns that they may have. Students who feel anxious or upset may always seek assistance from counseling professionals at the student health services locations in Camden, Newark, and New Brunswick. The Rutgers Law School operates an Immigrant Rights Clinic (located at the Center for Law and Justice, room 402A, in Newark; 973-353-5292) which can confidentially answer questions regarding immigration law or other concerns of undocumented students.

Over the past few days, many students have raised concerns about their privacy and their safety. You should know that:

We will protect student confidentiality and will not share private information unless required by law or a court order. We expect all persons associated with the University to protect student privacy and confidentiality, as well.

Rutgers police do not inquire into nor record the immigration status of students or other persons unless a serious crime has been committed.

Rutgers University does not use E-verify for any purposes other than to comply with longstanding federal law regarding employment eligibility. Immigration status is not a factor in student housing decisions.

Finally, you should be aware that US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) policy characterizes colleges and universities, like Rutgers, as “sensitive locations,” places where, in the normal course, enforcement actions should not occur unless extraordinary circumstances exist.

We cherish and will protect the rights of free expression and privacy that are afforded to all members of the Rutgers community. We will do everything in our power to protect the safety of our students and community. We embrace the passion and commitment to civic engagement that have defined Rutgers for 250 years. Let us set an example for the country that shows how real freedom of expression can be exercised in a safe and respectful manner.

Sincerely,

Robert Barchi