
Campus Community Reinforces Inclusion

Chancellor Little

Wed, Dec 9, 2015 at 4:00 PM



Dear students,

I would like to take a moment to reflect on an issue that is very much in the news today, the resurging bigotry against Muslims in our country.

This week I know many of us were shocked at the offensive words and proposals that presidential candidate Donald Trump advanced in dealing with the threat of terrorism in America. His comments serve as a reminder to all of us that there is a virulent strand of anti-Muslim bigotry in the United States. World leaders, Republican and Democratic presidential candidates and many Americans across the country denounced Mr. Trump's remarks and proposed actions.

I would like to commend Elias Baumgarten for taking the time to write a letter to the editor of the New York Times addressing this issue. Elias, supported by numerous faculty and staff members, prepared a letter that reflects our campus's experiences with students of different religious backgrounds, including Muslim students.

We have worked very hard as a community at UM-Dearborn to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for faculty, staff and students. We are all reminded of the impact of these efforts when we see the outpouring of faculty and staff support for Elias's letter, when we see our students discussing world events in a respectful and open manner and when we walk through the University Center and see the reality of inclusiveness on our campus.

I am proud of our efforts to date in creating a learning environment that is not only accessible to students of diverse backgrounds, but is inclusive and welcoming. I believe we have created a campus community where faculty, staff and students feel welcome in their own identities and encouraged to learn from others with different histories.

I encourage all of you who care about equality, inclusiveness and mutual respect to stand up against hate and fear, and to find ways of counteracting negative and hurtful words and actions against the Muslim community and all communities on our campus, in our neighborhoods and throughout the country and world.

There is much more work to do.

Sincerely

Chancellor Little

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