

April 19, 2018

Dear Maxwell Community,

A little over a year ago, in the wake of the President's Executive Order on Immigration, I wrote to our community to affirm the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs's deep commitment to opposing intolerance and discrimination, and to ending activities that are dehumanizing to others and that leave our most vulnerable members uncertain about their futures.

The events this week involving the fraternity Theta Tau are disgusting, disheartening, and antithetical to everything for which the Maxwell School stands. We strongly affirm Chancellor Syverud's statement that there is absolutely no place at Syracuse University for behavior or language that degrades any individual or group's race, ethnicity, sexuality, gender identity, disability or religious beliefs.

It is clear we have important work ahead of us. Yesterday, Dean Brian Konkol of Hendricks Chapel, began by hosting two forums for community dialogue regarding these recent, disturbing events. On Friday, I will join Maxwell Associate Deans Barrett, Faulkner, and London for a student forum on this topic. Our goal is to engage in conversation and problem solving where we can invest in each other and our institution and leave our School and communities greater, better, and more beautiful.

As I said last year, and I believe it bears repeating today:

Regardless of what the next few months or the next few years hold, the Maxwell community will use its voice to build bridges and understanding, to engage in dialogue and exchange, to offer a safe space for those who feel invisible, vulnerable and marginalized, and to do so with respect and integrity.... It is time for our School of Citizenship to lead and to do so boldly.

Thank you for your visible and active support and participation in the vital work to come.



David M. Van Slyke, Ph.D.

Dean