



DAEMEN

COLLEGE

A World of Opportunity

Office of the President

November 16, 2015

Daemen College
Students, Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

Like many of you, I have been watching the activism unfolding at colleges and universities around the country with great interest. On campuses across the nation, there is long-overdue attention to issues of race and social justice. In a free society, no institution can prevent all ignorant comments or offensive behavior, but one thing I know for sure is that Daemen College will respond swiftly to acts of intolerance toward any group or individual.

Daemen was founded on the principle that education should elevate human dignity and foster civic responsibility and compassion. Inside the classroom and out, we strive for respectful dialogue about complex and challenging issues. For many years, faculty, staff and students have taken charge of advancing diversity efforts through groups like the DAC (Diversity Action Committee) and the EDIC (Equity and Diversity Initiatives Council). In recent semesters, several new multicultural student organizations have formed giving greater voice to more people. At the same time, diverse organizations have worked together on collaborative events that bring people together. Still, our efforts must be better coordinated.

To this end, last spring I announced the creation of a new Office of Multicultural Affairs and Diversity to coordinate initiatives and to advocate for students of all backgrounds. A national search for a director is underway, and a finalist will be coming to campus next month (details to follow). All are welcome to attend an open forum with the candidate and to share their thoughts with us. In addition to the open forum, the interview process includes opportunities for the president of the Student Association and many of our multicultural clubs and organizations to talk privately with the candidate(s) during lunch.

My staff and I are steadfast in our commitment to ensuring an inclusive campus community for everyone at Daemen College. If you have recommendations or concerns, please contact Dr. Greg Nayor, Vice President for Student Affairs at 839-8520 or Dr. Kathleen Boone, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, at 839-8301, or this office.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson
President