



# DAEMEN

COLLEGE

**A World of Opportunity**

Office of the President

April 20, 2019

## **Statement on the Death of a Daemen Student**

On behalf of the entire Daemen College community, we are deeply saddened to share the tragic loss of one of our undergraduate students, Michael Ruiz, Jr, an undergraduate in the Social Work program, who passed away of natural causes earlier today at the off-campus home of his partner. This has been a year full of devastating losses for the Daemen campus community, and we grieve as a family for Michael and his family and friends, faculty and staff.

We know that it is a holiday weekend, but Daemen will be developing a plan to offer grief counseling and support services to all those affected by this tragic loss before classes commence on Wednesday. Student Affairs will be coordinating those efforts and an additional message regarding support and grief counseling will be sent to the entire campus community on Sunday.

Additionally, information regarding services will be shared as it becomes available. Members of the Daemen community are encouraged to contact campus safety 24/7 at 716-839-8246 or Counseling Services at 716-839-8337, or complete a CARE Report online at [www.daemen.edu/concern](http://www.daemen.edu/concern) for assistance or if you are aware of someone in need of services.

Please keep Michael and his family and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson  
President