



August 16, 2017

Dear SUNY Presidents,

In the aftermath of the tragic events that unfolded in Charlottesville, Virginia just days ago and with the Fall semester quickly upon us, we want to affirm once again that The State University of New York and all of our campuses will continue to be the inclusive communities that our students, faculty, staff, neighbors, and visitors have come to expect and deserve.

SUNY stands united against racism, violence, and intimidation. We support our underrepresented populations to the fullest extent. We do all we can to protect the free exchange of ideas and learning that are, and must always be, synonymous with university life.

As the largest system of public higher education serving New York State, we have the capacity – and what’s more, we have a responsibility – to serve as a model community, one that ensures acceptance in all forms. Guided by our founding principles and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policy, we must continue our work to ensure these commitments are upheld and that all feel safe and welcome within SUNY, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

As we prepare for the start of another academic year, SUNY campuses should anticipate that members of our campus communities may need additional support. SUNY’s central Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is available to you should you need assistance; and we have recently acquired a grant through the SUNY Impact Foundation that enables us to provide additional support to campuses in the form of anti-bias training.

SUNY’s commitment to sustaining a safe and welcoming climate for all of our constituencies has never been stronger. Thank you for your excellent leadership in this regard. Please be in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Carl McCall".

H. Carl McCall
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy L. Zimpher".

Nancy L. Zimpher
Chancellor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlos Medina".

Carlos Medina
Vice Chancellor and
Chief Diversity Officer