



Office of the President

November 15, 2016

Dear UD Campus Community,

As we always encourage honest and robust dialogue at UD, we are reminded that our nation needs strong models of respectful discourse, and we as the UD community should lead these conversations.

Recently, there have been incidents where members of our community have acted in ways that are divisive, demeaning and even hateful. This is not acceptable. And this is not who we are. It is inconsistent with our core value and guiding principle of diversity as part of our educational mission to prepare students to live in an increasingly diverse world.

We believe in fostering a spirit of unity and inclusion on our campus, where we appreciate the dignity and worth of every single human being. We must respect the unique voice that each of us brings to the conversation. And because of that respect, we can disagree without being rude or hurtful. We must speak, but we also must listen.

I hope you will continue to get involved in organizations and activities that help our campus community, our local community and our nation as we move forward. For example, on Friday, the University Green was covered from end-to-end with 6,902 small American flags waving in the

blustery autumn wind to represent the brave men and women who lost their lives fighting for our country in conflicts that have followed 9/11. This moving show of love for our country, organized by the Blue Hen Veterans RSO, is a reminder of what makes our country, and our University, so great.

Please know that we remain committed to embracing a safe, diverse and inclusive campus that reflects our collective views, experiences, capabilities, cultures, aspirations, and ultimately our commitment to excellence. The University of Delaware and other universities must ensure that free speech and diversity will coexist and even flourish in our society. In this way, we can be a model for moving our nation forward together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Assanis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dennis Assanis
President