



1/30/2017

**To:** All Faculty, All Staff, All Grad Students, All SAGE Students, All Traditional Students, All Adjuncts

**Subject:** Message to Campus Regarding Trump Administration's Executive Orders

Cedar Crest Campus Community:

Cedar Crest College's community includes students, faculty, and staff, from around the country and also from around the world. In a few short years our student population has grown from 17% students of color to 37%. International students have grown from 1% of our population to 11%. Students from 25 different countries are currently enrolled at Cedar Crest. This diversity is our strength and our identity.

We are Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Hindu, and many other faiths. We are female, male, and transgender. We are young, we are old. We are of varying ethnic backgrounds. We are citizens, undocumented residents, foreign visitors, and immigrants. We are these many things and more. Yet, we all share the Cedar Crest dream that education will improve the lives of our families and neighbors, our nation and the global community.

I thought it was important, in an era where we have begun to question who is among us and to single out particular faiths, to reaffirm our commitment to the values of inclusion, diversity, equity, and mutual respect.

To our students, in particular, who have been directly affected by the recent executive orders regarding undocumented persons and individuals of the Islamic faith traveling in and out of this country, I want you to know that you are still a valued part of our community. We will support you in all the ways that we can, including safeguarding private information to the fullest extent of the law, requiring governmental agencies to have a warrant to be on campus, and maintaining the levels of academic, student, and financial support that we have been able to provide. Please reach out to Tatiana Diaz, the Director of our Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI; [tadiaz@cedarcrest.edu](mailto:tadiaz@cedarcrest.edu)) so that we can help you locate appropriate resources, if you have questions or concerns, or if you just need someone to talk to.

Cedar Crest's support staff met this morning to reach out to students who are affected and to ensure that we are doing all that we can. Over the next several weeks the CDI will be offering programming for all students, faculty and staff who want to dialogue and be engaged on these issues.

On a personal note, I want the community to know that I have supported the BRIDGE Act, along with 600 other college presidents, which would extend the DREAM act and the continuation and expansion of DACA. I have reached out to our congressional delegation regarding our international



students and any potential measures that may impact their ability to continue their education at Cedar Crest. The Cedar Crest College President's Cabinet will continue to address emerging international issues that affect our students, faculty, and staff as they evolve.

I recognize that we have different political perspectives across our campus. These differences are healthy and a critical part of our diversity. Throughout our differences, however, remains the imperative that each of us personally and Cedar Crest as an institution treat members of our community humanely and support each other's needs.

For 150 years we have been a college that provided access to those students who have been turned away elsewhere. We will continue to be an institution that values opportunity and provides an education to those students who both need and deserve it.

**President Carmen Twillie Ambar**

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