Sept. 19, 2019

Dear ESF Community,

This Friday, September 20, we have a chance to be part of something larger than ourselves as Global Climate Strike takes place worldwide.

Students, this global event has been organized, planned and will largely be attended by your peers. Of course, every person reading this message can play a role in this action. The cause is something we understand deeply at ESF, and is the essence of our existence. Every day the work and research done by our faculty and students serve to advance our role as global environmental change agents.

While we at ESF don’t need a single, designated day to focus on the environment, as it’s part of our daily lives and mission, I encourage you to be present in this moment – either directly, or by offering understanding, guidance and support, or through amplifying the sentiment that we are far beyond accepting inaction. There are events planned throughout Syracuse and the surrounding areas and I encourage you to explore these options. I ask all of you — the administration, faculty and staff — to listen and amplify the voices of our students and be unafraid to join in the action.

I will close with a quote from Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenager who has captivated the planet with her vigilance and strong message. “I don’t want your hope. I don’t want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act.”

Thank you for choosing to be part of the ESF family and thank you for doing the good work that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

David Amberg
Interim President