



MESSAGE

from the interim

PRESIDENT

Dear ESF Community,

I, and all of us at ESF, remain committed to creating and sustaining a diverse community that promotes equity and inclusion for all of our members. Toward this goal, we have promised frequent communication. I write today to update you on two recent incidents at Syracuse University. These continued threats toward members of our community are not acceptable and will be repudiated by ESF. Every student, faculty, and staff member should feel safe and welcome on our campus and be able to focus on their academics and work without fear. The two most recent events are as follows.

- Racist graffiti, using language that is derogatory to African Americans, was discovered in the stairway of Day Hall on Feb. 2.
- On Jan. 30, an Asian American Syracuse University student reported being verbally harassed by individuals in a vehicle driving by the corner of Stratford Street and Comstock Avenue on Saturday, Jan. 25. There was no physical altercation.

Both of these incidents have been documented on a website that is maintained by Syracuse University (<https://dps.syr.edu/public-information/bias-incident-reports/>).

As we learn of discriminatory incidents, I will continue to communicate with our students, faculty, and staff. In addition, we are working with ESF student and academic leadership groups to revisit the most effective communication method to relay information about demonstrations of discrimination. Most importantly, our Office of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (OIDE), Human Resources Office, and Student Affairs Division continue to focus on preventing instances of bias, discrimination and racism at ESF and increasing the diversity of our workforce and student body.

Students in need of assistance and/or support are urged to call ESF Counseling Services at 315-470-4716. Students can also contact OIDE (lrivera@esf.edu, 315-565-3016) to learn more about community support and programs. For staff and faculty, support is available through the Employee Assistance Program coordinated by Nan Clark (nfclark@esf.edu, 315-470-6726).

Sincerely,

