

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thursday, November 7, 2024

Dear SU Community,

It is with heartbreak and disbelief that I share five additional Salisbury University students have been arrested and charged for their alleged involvement in the violent and hateful crimes mentioned in my [November 5th message to campus](#).

Our community is reeling from an act of visceral hate. We are witnessing a campus filled with anguish that something so unspeakable could happen from within the community that we all love. As I said in my November 5th message to campus, **“Acts of violence towards LGBTQ+ and Ally communities are not only destructive but at odds with the principles of community, respect, and belonging that bind us together as a university.”**

We, Salisbury University, need to acknowledge the harm that hate and violence has brought to our community.

While these crimes were not perpetrated against another student, the thought of this happening to anyone – regardless of the circumstances – is dismaying.

As we try to heal, we need to acknowledge the harm that hate and violence have brought to our campus, and we must listen to the voices of the LGBTQ+ community.

True change requires reflection, courage, and empathy.

Our reflection must compel us to be better allies, to stand up, speak out, and create spaces where everyone is safe and valued.

Members of the administration and myself have met with members of the queer community, including the LGBTQ+ Alliance, to find ways to help us heal as a community.

In the coming days, you will hear more about the formation of a dedicated taskforce on LGBTQ+ inclusiveness and other meetings where all voices will be heard. These steps are only the beginning.

I know you have questions. While I don't have all the answers this moment, I want to do my best to address a few things in greater detail and assure you that this is not the end of this conversation.

The students arrested have been placed on suspension, in adherence with the University's [Code of Community Standards Policy](#). This includes being restricted from campus and being unable to participate in academic coursework either in person or virtually. Additionally, the fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, has been placed on suspension in accordance with the University's [Code of Student Organization Standards](#).

These are the harshest penalties the university can impose at this stage of the process.

I know you are seeing and reading about the incident as it is covered by media. We must remain aware that the full scope of the investigation is still unfolding. It is vital that we avoid the spread of unverified or incomplete information.

The Lambda Society, the faculty and staff LGBTQ+ association, is organizing a Community Vigil and Unity Walk to be held on Monday, November 11th, in The Square at 3:00 p.m. I will be there, and we invite all members of our campus to join us.

Only together can we ensure there is no place for hate, no tolerance for intolerance, and no room for violence. We must commit to building a world where love is met with love, and every person is free to be themselves, without fear, without violence, and without prejudice.

If you or anyone you know has questions or is seeking help, support or resources, please reach out to the Office of Inclusion, Access and Belonging at ODI@salisbury.edu.

Sincerely,

Lyn



DR. CAROLYN R. LEPRE

Salisbury
UNIVERSITY