
[group-education-all-employees] In Response to D.C. Violence

Mary Ann Danowitz CED Dean <educationdean@ncsu.edu>

Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 8:15 AM

To: group-education-all-employees@ncsu.edu, group-education-grad-students@ncsu.edu, group-education-undergrad-students@ncsu.edu

Dear Colleagues and Students:

Wednesday was a dark and frightening day in our nation's history with the president of the United States inciting a violent mob to stop Congress from certifying the election of President elect Joe Biden and Vice-president elect Kamala Harris. Like me, you may be feeling horrified, disgusted, and sad about those acts and the double standard of policing in response to pro-Trump supporters who assaulted the Capitol and to Black Lives Matters protesters during the past year. As Chancellor Woodson [wrote](#), we must use what we are feeling to "motivate us to each strive to make our nation, and the world, a better place."

Nelson Mandela's words, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" are ones for all of us to take to heart at this time. And as your dean, I can assure you that our college will remain determined and diligent to make our nation and world a better place by continuing to seek meaningful ways we can advance democratic values and stand against bigotry and racism to build more diverse, inclusive and supportive schools and communities.

I have asked Associate Dean John Lee and Special Advisor for Advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Professor Joy Gaston Gayles to convene a group to develop initiatives to support and prepare our faculty and staff, students, and alumni to deal with this chapter of our nation's history and be part of the change that is needed. Our work will begin immediately, and we will reach out to each of you with invitations to engage in our efforts in ways that respect your experiences, perspectives, and scholarship.

This moment in our nation's history demands much of us. We must comfort one another in this time of need, but also must be courageous and challenge each other to rise above partisan rancor and find common ground. We are called to action and will not shrink from that call. As educational leaders we have an obligation to engage in the work of democratic life. To do that right now, when the work is hardest, is our greatest challenge and our highest calling.

On a personal level, I encourage you to reach out and check in with each other, to stay informed through reliable media sources, to take breaks from news and social media platforms when needed, to focus on the things you can control, and to do things that will bring you comfort, whether that's walking, reading, cooking, playing, watching a movie, or whatever you enjoy. Please take the time to care for yourself and your loved ones.

Please also know that you are not alone during this trying time. Much reflection, healing, and reconciliation is needed for meaningful progress to increase civility, integrity and dignity; but I have faith that will happen as we continue to work collectively and individually to increase opportunities for educational success for all.

Please take care,
Mary Ann

Mary Ann Danowitz, D.Ed.
Dean, NC State College of Education

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "[group-education-all-employees@ncsu.edu](#)" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [group-education-all-employees+unsubscribe@ncsu.edu](#).

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/a/ncsu.edu/d/msgid/group-education-all-employees/CAO4wgfHEfPWryp1sbT45rAIPfGhz1KmWoBTmcYuuue5Enq4EQg%40mail.gmail.com>.

