



November 13, 2016

Dear Members of the College Community,

Last week, we reaffirmed our commitment to our Mission as an inclusive community and I reminded us all of the inherent value, dignity and rights of every person on our campus. In the past few days, we have witnessed in the City of Philadelphia, in cities across the country, as well as on some of the nation's college campuses, incidents of violence, hate speech, harassment, and intimidation. We condemn such acts without reservation. In keeping with our beliefs, we advise all who come to our campus to work, to study, to reside or to visit that no such actions or language will be tolerated by Chestnut Hill College. Our faith and our Mission forbid it. Our anti-discrimination policy forbids it. Anyone who performs such acts against any person, for any reason, will be held accountable under our policies, the student code of conduct, and any applicable laws. Action in response to these inexcusable behaviors will be swift and decisive.

We call on every member of the College community to be an ally to every dear neighbor without distinction. Please speak up if you should ever witness hateful language, actions, or graffiti. Please inform us if you are the recipient of such bad behavior. Report it immediately to the College Officer for Diversity and Inclusion: [ccavanau@chc.edu](mailto:ccavanau@chc.edu) or to Security [215-242-7777].

This is a community in which each and every person has the right to feel safe, respected, and valued. We are a campus blessed with a very diverse population. Engaging people of different races, cultures, religions, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, differently abled, and national origins enriches us. Learning to understand and respect these differences is integral to the educational experience at Chestnut Hill College and to students' successful professional experiences after graduation. We live in a global world, the deeper our knowledge of one another, the greater the chance to end divisions so we can live together in peace. At this College, we are offered the opportunity to acquire a meaningful understanding of diversity. Not only is this a gift, but also a challenge and a responsibility, one we embrace for the common good of the whole human community.

I know I can depend upon everyone at this College to support our Mission and the core values it underscores.

God bless you and our beloved country,

Sister Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D.

President