



Office of the President

May 27, 2022

Daemen University  
Students, Faculty and Staff

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students:

In the last two weeks, the country has witnessed two new mass shootings—one here in Buffalo that directly affected our community, and one earlier this week that saw 20 people, mostly children, killed in Texas. To call these incidents tragic would be an understatement.

At Daemen, we are always working to ensure the safety of our community members. I am proud of the tremendous efforts our ERT has taken in recent years to greatly improve safety, which include card access to buildings, camera monitoring, increased lighting, redundant communication systems, increased professionalism of campus safety, and regular training of our safety officers and others.

We count these steps as significant progress, but in the wake of what is transpiring, we feel strongly that we must do more. We will develop ways to maintain the openness of our campus—something we all value—while increasing measures to keep us safe in the event that the unthinkable occurs.

To that end, the university will move forward, immediately, with several initiatives to enhance our existing systems and efforts. First, our ERT will refocus its efforts on training faculty and staff on what to do in an active shooter scenario. These sessions—the details of which will be communicated shortly—will focus on the university's response, the role of faculty and staff, and communications.

Second, we will conduct a series of drills and training sessions early in the new academic year to ensure preparedness and enable us to examine gaps in our system. We will work to become familiar with what to do in an emergency.

Third, we will install additional technology and systems to bolster communications internally and with the Amherst Police Department.

Finally, after much thought and discussion, we will be bringing on a sworn armed officer from the Amherst Police Department as part of our campus safety operation. Specifically, the officer will serve as a resource to enhance our efforts and training, and, in the event of an active shooter scenario, will be prepared to engage with the perpetrator and to preserve life. We feel strongly that these actions are a necessary next step in ensuring the continued safety of our community.

I thank you for your understanding and continued support for our efforts to keep our campus community safe.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary A. Olson".

Gary A. Olson  
President