



DAEMEN

COLLEGE

A World of Opportunity

Office of the President

October 29, 2020

Daemen College
Students, Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, this coming Tuesday, November 3, is election day. Historically, this day is one filled with hope and enthusiasm for the future. It is no secret that this year has a much different tone. The country feels divided and rhetoric has become hostile. As an institution of higher education, Daemen plays a leading role in providing a safe and inclusive community for healthy discourse and productive civic engagement.

I understand that the tensions the nation is facing can cause stress and anxiety for many. Although the outcome of the coming election is uncertain, it is safe to say that there will be some difficult times ahead. While we cannot control what happens nationally, we do have the ability to foster an environment on this campus that is respectful, peaceful, caring, and supportive. Different viewpoints and a free exchange of ideas are the hallmarks of an institution of higher education, but these only work in a peaceful environment where people are valued as fellow community members.

Just as we have weathered this pandemic together, we will weather the challenges of the coming weeks together as well. I want to remind everyone that we are one community with a shared set of values and purpose. We will not tolerate acts of racism, violence, or acts that are deemed to be rooted in hatred. As always, we will offer support and guidance to those who need it. Student Affairs will be sending out notifications in the next couple of days with information on transportation to local voting polls, as well as activities and other services.

These are extraordinary times, and I thank you for handling them with integrity and grace. Please continue being well, and thanks for getting “Civically Fit” this year.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson
President