

## A Letter to the OLLAS Community

In the wake of a long presidential campaign characterized by divisive rhetoric, the election results of Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> left us saddened and frustrated, but above all, concerned for the well-being of our students and our community. Many of our students belong to groups who were targeted and denigrated during the campaign—immigrants, Mexicans/Latina/os, Muslims, African-Americans, LGBTQ, disabled, women, veterans, among others.

As an urban metropolitan institution with a growing and diverse student population, we believe that it is imperative at this time to reiterate our support for our students as well as other community members who feel in the aftermath of the election that their education, safety, security and livelihoods are now threatened. Over the course of this past couple of weeks, members of our faculty have witnessed firsthand how students are fearful for what may come in the future, for themselves and their families. We have also heard of reports of incidents of intimidation both on and off-campus of students and faculty alike.

**The Office of Latino/Latin American Studies (OLLAS)** at the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) has long prided itself on being a home and safe space for many of our students and this commitment has only deepened in the past few weeks. As such, we are staunchly committed to protecting our students and community members to our fullest capacity from anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, racist, misogynistic, and all other forms of marginalization, harassment, and hate. Moreover, as integral members of the Omaha Latino community, working with our networks and affiliations, we are committed to extending these values as widely as possible knowing full well that these spaces are where the majority of these incidents do occur.

***We vow not to be silent or passive when members of our community face fear and intimidation. NO ONE should ever feel alone; in solidarity, we vow to overcome divisiveness, bigotry and hate.***

The linked message from UNO Chancellor John Christensen provides a listing of the numerous resources available to students, faculty and staff as they relate to the issues and concerns current post-election climate.

<https://t.e2ma.net/message/zy7pi/vfqs0g>

We encourage students to be vigilant and report incidents of hate or harassment; all our faculty and staff have made themselves available to students for support and assistance. Dr. Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado, OLLAS Interim Director will serve as a point person for our office's efforts. He can be reached at [jalvarado@unomaha.edu](mailto:jalvarado@unomaha.edu) or 402-554-3835.

### **La Lucha Continúa – The Struggle Continues.**

Sincerely,



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