

NADOHE STANDS IN SOLIDARITY AGAINST HATE AND ACTS OF BIGOTRY AND RACISM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North Palm Beach, FL. – August 13, 2017 - The National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education continues to follow the news reports of the events in Charlottesville, Virginia. The violence that resulted in death and serious injuries to innocent people is horrifying. We strongly denounce and reject the hatred and acts of intimidation of those white nationalists who came to the State of Virginia to do harm. Virginia Governor McAuliffe in his statement Saturday told them to take their hatred and bigotry and leave--they are not wanted in the state, and like him, we say, there is no place for them in this country.

The Saturday afternoon message from Teresa A. Sullivan, President, University of Virginia, addressed to members of the University Community, expressed profound concern regarding the outrageous acts of white nationalist protestors carrying torches who marched on UVA's Grounds to "spread their message of intolerance and hate." We support the message of President Sullivan and extend our ongoing support to the entire UVA campus community.

NADOHE recognizes the grave responsibility we have as members of our respective campus communities to speak out against the efforts of those who would attempt to divide our campuses and our country based on our differences--that include race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Over the next days, weeks, and months, there will be those who will test the boundaries of free speech and assembly. We support the First Amendment, and recognize the significance of our great institutions being the marketplace of ideas that generate new knowledge. However, violence is not protected, and we must strongly condemn those whose words and behavior are the antithesis of our values of diversity, inclusion, basic human dignity and respect. The safety and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff is paramount and that includes the emotional well-being of our students that is essential for learning.

Unfortunately, the violence and bigotry in the Charlottesville community is but the latest in a recent pattern of incidents that are designed to destroy the fabric of our university communities. "Not unlike Governor McAuliffe and others who have expressed their outrage over the events in Charlottesville, our response to those who spew hate and bigotry to destroy our communities is simply this - you and your acts of hate, violence and bigotry are not welcomed" says NADOHE President Archie Ervin.

NADOHE is an association comprised of chief diversity officers and diversity professionals who are the standard-bearers of higher education's values of diversity and inclusion. We will continue to uphold our responsibilities to promote and advance diversity, even in this time of crisis in our country—because this is, indeed, a time of crisis. We stand united and we will not stand silent as others attempt to destroy our communities with hate.

NADOHE serves as the preeminent voice for diversity officers in higher education. Its vision is to lead higher education towards inclusive excellence through institutional transformation. For more information about NADOHE, please call 561-472-8479 or visit www.nadohe.org.

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