

Thank You

April 6 Campus-wide Meeting

Yesterday we gathered to show our support for the individuals who constitute this institution. Yesterday we, as a group, saw the diversity of people and heard an array of opinions that make up St. Mary's College. Thank you for participating.

I know that meetings such as yesterday's can be intense and that many of us felt a range of emotions as we witnessed members of our community, some who may have never before spoken about any of these issues in a public forum, find their voices and speak. I initially said that it was going to be emotional and that individuals might say things that you may or may not agree. Some of the things that were said may have been inspiring; others may have been hurtful. There may have been moments when it appeared that the meeting might have been going in a direction that was contrary to our efforts to be inclusive, civil, and respectful of all voices. It is important that we not lose sight of the many positives that came out of the meeting. I very much appreciate the manner in which we maintained our composure during those difficult moments.

It will take quite a bit of time to process all that happened yesterday. I appreciate all of the students who came up to me immediately after the meeting with ideas to help us to be more inclusive and those who offered words of encouragement and continued support. In the not-too-distant future, you will be provided with a means to access the notes that were taken, the action items we compiled, and next steps. And, don't forget that if you were unable to articulate what you were feeling or wanted to say yesterday, you may drop a note in the box at the information Desk in the Campus Center. Your thoughtful suggestions will be included in the compilation.

I believe that we came out of the meeting at a better place than when we entered that building. I recognize that we have a lot of work to do and that there is no single, simple solution to this complex situation. However, I know that there is a lot of good in the people who make up this community. Each of us has a part to play in building and maintaining our community as a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment in which all can thrive. I am counting on you to do your part in helping us get there.

I believe "hope" is returning to St. Mary's College.
Sincerely,

Tuajuanda C. Jordan