



Office of the President

September 12, 2018

Daemen College
Students, Faculty, and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

As we begin the new academic year, I want to take this opportunity to remind all members of the Daemen community of our shared values. Our mission is “to prepare students for life and leadership in an increasingly diverse and complex world by integrating the intellectual qualities acquired through the liberal arts with the preparation necessary for professional achievement.”

At its core, higher education exists as a space for robust, respectful debate in which various and often conflicting ideas are explored and evaluated. As members of an educational community, both in and out of the classroom, we are committed to advancing universal human dignity and a just, equitable and democratic society.

Daemen College upholds and respects the right to free speech as well as our responsibility as educators and citizens to challenge any and all manifestations of prejudice as outlined very clearly in our [non-discrimination policy](#). As an institution of higher education, we value differing opinions and points of view, while having no tolerance for hatred, bigotry, or violence. These values guide our actions in the roles we play as members of an academic community.

As we continue to enhance our reputation as a college of national distinction, it is important that we hold ourselves and each other to these shared values and help our students see the bigger picture.

I also want to remind you that the College has endorsed the “One Daemen” plan developed by the Council for Diversity and Inclusion. I encourage community members to take a few minutes to review the plan online: <https://www.daemen.edu/sites/default/files/ODI.pdf>

Best wishes for the start of the academic year.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson
President