

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Dear SU Community,

Earlier today, seven of our students were arrested on charges of committing several violent crimes. It is alleged that these students, some of whom are fraternity members, committed crimes including first-degree assault, reckless endangerment, false imprisonment, and associated hate crimes motivated by an individual's sexual orientation, at an off-campus apartment complex.

Moments like these are profoundly difficult to communicate. As President of the University, a resident of this community, and the mother of two college students, the right words escape me – they feel inadequate in fully conveying the weight of the shock and disbelief we all share.

The thought of SU students perpetuating any crime is upsetting, but the thought of SU students perpetrating crimes of such a disturbing nature is truly horrifying.

So, let me be clear. We are upset by these allegations. *I* am upset by these allegations.

In my more than two years at SU, I have grown to cherish the warmth, compassion, and acceptance that define this community we've built together. These actions do not reflect the SU that I know and love. A place where everyone should feel safe and free from harm. A place where violence is unacceptable.

Acts of violence toward LGBTQ+ and Ally communities are not only destructive but at odds with the principles of community, respect, and belonging that bind us together as a university.

In the coming days and weeks, we may hear more about these crimes, and I urge you to allow the investigatory process to take place without speculation. Our institution believes in due process and the right to a fair investigation – and actions of anger and hate perpetrated against others have no place on our campus.

Please also remember that the University cannot speak about an ongoing investigation, and we must continue to uphold privacy laws that help to guide our student conduct processes.

I recognize that the lack of detailed information may be frustrating, especially given the circumstances, and I appreciate your understanding.

In the meantime, I have instructed the Office of Student Affairs to take the appropriate interim suspension actions in accordance with our existing policies.

In times like these, we can all use some additional support. If you need to talk, please consider reaching out to the [Counseling Center](#), [TimelyCare](#), or the [Employee Assistance Program](#).

Please care for one another,



DR. CAROLYN R. LEPRE



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