

Dear Lake Washington Tech Community,

In recent weeks many members of the community have conveyed their feelings of fear for themselves and their future, concerns about harassment and discriminatory behavior, or feeling of isolation due their views and perspectives. The College recently hosted a courageous conversation event (and will plan another in January) as participation in difficult discussions as well as celebrations of our shared humanity represent the best of who we are and the ideals of our democracy.

Since there have been several reports of harassment, vandalism and violent incidents, in our state and on college campuses, we want to be clear: *assault, discrimination, harassment or vandalism have no place on our campuses*. These or any behaviors that violate our Student Conduct Code or other policies will be referred for possible disciplinary action. We cannot allow harassing and offensive behavior to go unchecked. If you **see something, please say something** and notify the Safety and Security office, the Student Conduct officer, or an official in your department.

We have also received many questions from students, faculty and staff who are concerned — and even fearful — about the immigration status of some of our community members, particularly those who are undocumented and those covered under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Please see the recent letter and press release regarding DACA signed by the Washington State Community and Technical College Presidents: [WACTC DACA Letter and Press Release](#).

LWTech's policies and commitments are clear and have not changed. We are fully committed to providing a safe, secure and welcoming environment that protects the privacy and human rights of all members of our community.

More specifically:

- Our campus security officers do not question people about their immigration status.
- We do not make admissions decisions about students based on their immigration status, and we do not request immigration documentation except as needed to determine the eligibility for resident tuition rates.
- We do not volunteer information about student enrollees and do not disclose protected information from their student education records except as required in response to a lawfully issued subpoena or court order. Student's education records, including any information regarding their immigration status, are protected by federal privacy laws.
- While we tolerate and protect freedom of speech, sometimes even offensive speech, we do not tolerate unlawful harassment, threats, or hate crimes as defined under our

student conduct code or applicable law.

- We welcome and affirm the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion, as well as the right of all students to be free from unlawful interference with the attainment of their educational goals.
- LWTech commits to protecting the safety, security, and well-being of its students and staff, regardless of their immigration status, within the limits of the law.
- LWTech strives to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation or beliefs, or disabilities.
- LWTech is committed to supporting all students, including undocumented students.
- While we do not have the power to prohibit federal officers from entering our campus, we sincerely hope they will respect and support our mission to educate and transform the lives of all of our students.

LWTech is unwavering in its resolve to create an inclusive, diverse and welcoming community. We can and will work together to find the best in each other, to bridge our differences and to treat each other with the respect and kindness that all people deserve.

Sincerely,
Amy