



HAMPTON, VIRGINIA 23668
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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 14, 2017

Dear Hampton University Family:

The profound negativity expressed in words, actions and deeds over the last few days in the city of Charlottesville, Virginia cannot go unnoticed. They are a very strong and hurtful reminder of the extreme prejudice and racism that still exist in our nation and proof that America is not the "post-racial society" that most of us hoped to achieve.

As President of Hampton University, an institution founded in Virginia to serve newly freed slaves and Native Americans whose lives were thought by many to be worth less than the white citizens of our nation, it is imperative in times like these that I remind the Hampton University Family and all of its constituents that our institution has always been opposed to the concepts of racial inequality and racism. Our founder, General Samuel Chapman Armstrong, wrote in 1890 that he hoped there would "be enough friends to see that the work continues; unless someone makes sacrifices for it, it cannot go on." Now celebrating our 150th year of existence, Hampton University is still committed to continuing the work of our founder and challenging racism on every front. This is the very foundation upon which we were established.

I encourage every member of the Hampton University Family to not allow the incidents which occurred over the weekend to go without notice or response. Recognize that even in today's society, centuries after the Emancipation Proclamation, the passage of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments and decades after the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the concepts of racial inequality and racism are still being taught, promoted and advanced. As Hamptonians, we must take a peaceful stance against any and all incidents of racial injustice and racism, as well as do everything within our power to eradicate the hate upon which these concepts are founded.

The Hampton Nation offers our support and sympathy to those who lost their lives or were injured during these incidents. We hope that their commitment to combatting racism will long be remembered and have a positive impact on others.

With all good wishes,

William R. Harvey
President

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