

**Subject:** note to our community

**Date:** Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 5:21 PM Central Daylight Time

**From:** Mark Burstein

**To:** STUDENT-L; FACULTY-L; STAFF-L

Dear Lawrence community,

The recently concluded election cycle raised deep concerns for many of us, including me. The tenets of a Liberal Arts community: respect for others, openness to new, challenging ideas, and reliance on research to help determine solutions, were largely absent from the discourse. But, as we heard from many elected officials today, it is now time for all elements of this nation to come together, as Americans do after elections are over.

That is especially true for us, here, at Lawrence. Some members of our community feel deeply threatened by the outcome; others wonder what this transition will mean for their futures. Others, who are residents from other countries, find themselves participating at a major moment in the history of the U.S. It is now, more than ever, a time when we need to be present for one another and listen carefully for concerns which need to be addressed. This morning's community gathering was a first step in that effort. Notes from that meeting are attached. Additional events will be posted on the [Diversity and Inclusion web page](#) under the "Post-Election Support" tab.

I take heart in knowing that you all join me in this effort.

In the past days a few members of the Fox Cities community have publicly demonstrated their prejudice. If at any point you feel your safety is at risk, please contact at once Campus Safety at x6999 or the Appleton Police Department at 911 or 920-832-5500.

I have faith we can work against this divisive trend in society and strengthen our community and the common values that bind us together.

Yours,

Mark

**Mark Burstein**

**President, Lawrence University**