



The President

October 20, 2016

To the Community: A Message in Support of Penn Black Students
From
President Amy Gutmann and Provost Vincent Price

Our nation has confronted far too many profoundly troubling incidents, including deaths in communities across the country, that highlight the continuing and pervasive challenges faced daily by Blacks in America. With each incident, those in the Black community at Penn have had to struggle anew with sorrow, frustration and fear. In the face of this struggle, we believe it is critically important to remind Penn's entire Black community that they are a treasured and respected part of our University.

Black lives matter, and as we have emphasized on so many occasions, at Penn *everyone belongs*. Our diverse student body is a point of great pride to our University, and we strive to create a living and learning community that is safe and welcoming for all. It is particularly important at this difficult time that Black students at Penn know that their University is supporting them.

Staff in VPUL, our Chaplain, and many others across the University have been actively reaching out to Black student groups on campus to make sure that we are aware of their concerns and needs. The two of us have met regularly with student leaders and will continue to do so. Succeeding in college can be difficult, and even more so when one feels threatened, or burdened by isolation or pain. We urge any students who are experiencing difficulties to seek support from the many dedicated professionals at CAPS, VPUL, the College Houses and elsewhere, and we have offered our personal and institutional support to them as well as we collectively confront these challenges.

We know we speak for all of our faculty, students and staff in expressing our support for Penn's Black students. We want you to feel welcome, safe and respected, and on that we stand with an unwavering commitment. We fervently stand with you, and want you to know that we value and honor your presence at Penn.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Amy Gutmann, written in a cursive style.

Amy Gutmann
President

A blue ink signature of Vincent Price, written in a cursive style.

Vincent Price
Provost