

November 13, 2016

Dear Kingsborough Students:

We write as faculty members, and as members of the Kingsborough community, in the days after an election that concluded a campaign of unprecedented ugliness. Over the past months, we have watched a campaign in which a candidate and his supporters issued insults, slurs, and outright threats against many of those who constitute our KBCC community: women, people of color, Jews, members of the LGBTQ community, those with disabilities, and in particular, Muslims and immigrants (more specifically, undocumented immigrants), who have been directly targeted by President-elect Trump's policy proposals. We would add that the broader public discussion around the election has involved a number of gross and insulting generalizations about other members of our community, specifically "non-college-educated voters" and "working class voters," to which we object in the strongest possible terms.

We are not here to make a partisan statement about who should or should not have won the Presidential election. Our job is to teach every member of our community to the best of our abilities. But we recognize that given the outcome of this election, many members of the KBCC community who belong to any of the groups that have been targeted during the campaign may be feeling a mixture of emotions: fear, rage, anxiety, hopelessness, fury, vulnerability. Indeed, we fear that many of our students may have woken up the day after the election feeling directly, bodily threatened by the results.

So we felt the need to reach out to you, to say three things. First, we pledge that no matter what happens in the months and years to come, our classrooms will remain spaces where the targeting of students based on their identities, beliefs, appearances, or immigration statuses will never, ever be tolerated. Second, we pledge to stand up, both within our college community and among a broader public, against all the forms of sexism and racism, of Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, of xenophobia and homophobia, of hatred and discrimination based on ability or gender identity—in short, against all the forms of hatred that have been unleashed over the course of this election campaign, and that threaten to become part of our nation's public policy. Third, given that the rhetoric of this election demonstrated an utter absence of what we might call "critical thinking," we pledge to model and teach these skills in our classrooms to ensure that our students are well-equipped to comprehend, analyze, and respond to public discourse, now and in the future.

As members of the Kingsborough community, we consider an attack on any of us to be an attack on all of us. We look forward to teaching you, and learning from you, in the days and weeks and years to come.

**[NOTE: The opinions expressed in this letter do not express the official views of Kingsborough Community College, nor of the faculty as a whole; they are solely the views of the individual faculty members who have signed this letter.]**

Sincerely,

**The Undersigned**

Anthony Alessandrini, English  
Paris Alexandra, Continuing  
Education  
Rick Armstrong, English  
Jack Arnow, Physical Sciences  
Babette Audant, Culinary Arts  
Eleanor Bader, English  
Avri Beard, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services

Boran Beric, History,  
Philosophy & Political Science  
Anna Betancourt, College Now  
Alison Better, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Nicole Beveridge, English  
Michelle Billies, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Doreen C. Bowens, English

Jacqueline Brady, English  
Shawna M. Brandle, History,  
Philosophy & Political Science  
Megan Brandow-Faller,  
History, Philosophy & Political  
Science  
Leslie Broder, English  
Evrick Brown, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services

Bruce Chadwick, English  
Ryan D. Chaney, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Daniel R. Collins, Mathematics  
& Computer Science  
Jennifer Corby, History,  
Philosophy & Political Science  
Annie Del Principe, English  
Gia Devillo-Younas, English  
Elizabeth Dill, English  
Sarah Dillon, Art  
Carol Durst-Wertheim, Culinary  
Arts  
Kevicha Echols, Health,  
Physical Education &  
Recreation  
Denise Farrelly, Education  
Studies  
Azure Faucette, Biological  
Sciences  
Meg Kallman Feeley, English  
Gregory Fletcher,  
Communications & Performing  
Arts  
Lourdes Dolores Follins,  
Behavioral Sciences & Human  
Services  
Esther Michelle Gabay, English  
Libby Garland, History,  
Philosophy & Political Science  
Kate Garretson, English  
Matthew Gartner, English  
Mara Gittleman, KCC Urban  
Farm  
Sherrye Glaser, Biological  
Sciences  
David Goldberg, Culinary Arts  
Bruno Gulli, History,  
Philosophy & Political Science  
Helaine Harris, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Sherry Harris, Health, Physical  
Education & Recreation  
Delia Hernandez, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Patrick Hickey, English  
Jonathan Holley, English  
Kieren Howard, Physical  
Sciences

Rachel Ihara, English  
Tyronne Johnson, Nursing  
Shola Jones, CUNY  
Start/Continuing Education  
Monica Joseph, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Amy Karp, English  
Laura Kates, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Brian Philip Katz, English  
Eileen Kennedy, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Beth King, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Navneet Kaur, Biological  
Sciences  
Kevin Kolkmeier, English  
Suzanne LaFont, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Gail Larkin, Nursing  
Thomas Lavazzi, English  
Jason Leggett, History,  
Philosophy & Political Science  
Ronna Levy, English  
Patrick Lloyd, Physical  
Sciences  
Natasha Lvovich, English  
Catherine Ma, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Marie McGovern, Biological  
Sciences  
Ryan McKinney,  
Communications & Performing  
Arts  
Maureen Minielli,  
Communications & Performing  
Arts  
Thomas Mintz, Art  
Michael Miranda, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Jennifer Mitchell, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Juan Morales-Flores,  
Behavioral Sciences & Human  
Services  
Jose Nanin, Health, Physical  
Education & Recreation  
Mary Lynn Navarro, English  
Karen Niles, English

Jennifer L. Oliveri, English  
Tina Orsini, English  
Janette O'Sullivan, Nursing  
Stuart Parker, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Katia Perea, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Sharon Prince, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Sara Rutkowski, English  
Ryan Schiavone, Nursing  
Emily Schnee, English  
Debra Schultz, History,  
Philosophy & Political Science  
Priscilla Shen-Ribeiro,  
Behavioral Sciences & Human  
Services  
Jill Siegel, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Indira Skoric, History,  
Philosophy & Political Science  
Cheryl Hogue Smith, English  
Michael S. Smith, Nursing  
Bailin Song, English  
Michael Spear, History,  
Philosophy & Political Science  
Joanna Stein, English  
Judith Stern, Tourism &  
Hospitality  
Adam Thompson, Art  
Tara Thompson, English  
Elizabeth Tompkins, Library  
Diana Treglia, Health, Physical  
Education & Recreation  
Judith Valdez, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Michelle Vangen, Art  
Jason VanOra, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Sheri Weinstein, English  
Jane Weiss, English  
Tara Weiss, English  
Dominic Wetzel, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
William Winter, Behavioral  
Sciences & Human Services  
Eben Wood, English