

# **MICHIGAN STATE** **UNIVERSITY**

October 13, 2016

TO: Concerned Students  
FROM: Lou Anna K. Simon, President  
RE: Movement for Black Lives

This is to acknowledge your letter of October 11, 2016, regarding the Movement for Black Lives. I am responding on behalf of myself, as well as Mark Dantonio and Tom Izzo, both of whom were also addressed in the letter.

Advocacy plays an important role in society and in learning communities, which are inherently works in progress. To benefit from the diversity, we must take the opportunity to learn from one another. Your voices are vital to that process here in our campus community, as are the voices and advocacy of other student groups and our students overall. We share a commitment to value human life and to work together toward greater respect, enhanced opportunity, equity and justice.

We understand that the current events that have impacted the larger community, and members of the Black community, specifically, are appropriate concerns for us at MSU. We welcome and encourage student engagement, whether in- or outside the classroom, toward the goal of achieving a more humane and just society, even when we may disagree on the methods and means for achieving the goal.

Our students play an important role in the continued conversations we need to have on campus. While we may not agree on the specific points, we appreciate those of you who made your voices heard on Tuesday. Continued dialog is important to helping ensure we keep moving toward a more inclusive community.



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