

A Letter from President Fritz to the College Community Regarding Recent Horrific Incidents

October 30, 2018

To the College Community:

I write to you today to condemn the hatred and bigotry that have motivated a series of recent heinous crimes: the massacre of Jewish congregants at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh; the random murder of two African Americans as they shopped for groceries in Louisville; and, the sending of explosive devices to leaders in New York City and other cities.

We grieve for the Americans murdered in Pittsburgh and Louisville, acts against humanity that should concern and horrify us all. All of us have to fight the rise of anti-Semitism and hateful rhetoric against those who look, love, or pray differently. We must also stand against similar hateful persons who seek to advance their abhorrent ideas through the use of violence and terror.

Throughout its history, the College of Staten Island has welcomed students and scholars of every race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity to pursue their educational interests and passions. We have stood for open, respectful discourse, and we categorically reject anyone seeking to promote hatred and bigotry – it has no place on our campus.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of those affected by these events. Please know that counseling services are available for members of our community.

- Students may contact the CSI Counseling Center: 718-982-2391 or walk-in at your convenience during business hours – Building 1A-109. You can come in alone, with a friend, or in a group – just give them a call. More information is available at www.csi.cuny.edu/students/counseling-center.
- Employees may contact the Deer Oaks Employee Assistance Program to speak with a licensed mental health counselor: 1-855-492-3633 (24-hours/day) or email: eap@deeroaks.com. For more information visit: www.deeroakseap.com (member username and password is CSI)

Sincerely,
William J. Fritz
President