

Our Continuing Conversations

July 25, 2016

Colleagues and Students,

A few weeks ago, our community gathered together in the wake of Orlando. There, so many University of Kentucky students, faculty, and staff came to comfort others, even as they sought to be comforted themselves.

Last Monday, we came together again, in community, this time seeking to bind long-existent wounds reopened by continuing violence against our sisters and brothers, simply because of who they are. And we again worked to be a community of healers, even as we sought space to be healed.

I am deeply grateful to the members of our community who summon our institution to be a consistent sanctuary for the expression of raw emotion generated by continuing tragedies around our country and our world. Emotions like grief, anger, confusion, and sadness. I am grateful, too, for the steadfast commitment of our Violence Intervention and Prevention Center, our Martin Luther King Center, our Office of LGBTQ* Resources, our Center for Graduate and Professional Diversity Initiatives, and so many others who lead us toward healing spaces of courageous and honest conversation and enduring assurance.

We have shown, and we will continue to show, that we are a community that can lend solace and find healing among one another; and that we are a community that can listen to and learn from one another. I encourage each of you to participate in these conversations and share in the ideals of our community.

We also must continually demonstrate we are a place where everyone belongs and no one need ever feel alone.

Eli Capilouto
President