

BUFFALO: A MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

May 16, 2022

Good Afternoon,

I write to you following the hate fueled crime of racial violence that took place in Buffalo, New York on Saturday. Ten people died, several others were injured, and a community has been traumatized. The official reports leave no doubt that this was a racially motivated assault. All who died were loved. They were simply going about their day. Each one will be forever grieved by their loved ones - each one should be forever grieved by all of us.

Our MassArt values of creating an environment that is just, compassionate, and equitable, of honoring courage, honesty, mutual respect and self-expression and using the power of art and design to transform the world remind us that as a community of artists, scholars, educators, and advocates we have unique tools and ways to strengthen and reinforce our humanity, build community, and combat hate. We cannot allow this act - as well as the litany of egregious acts inflicted on women, LGBTQ, and communities of color, nor anti-Asian, anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim attacks - to weaken our resolve to use our art and our humanity in service to the greater good.

As we move through our year-end milestones and celebrations this week, as a community, and as individuals, let us commit to care for one another. As we acknowledge the accomplishments, resilience, inspiration, and creativity of our graduating class, we will also look ahead and create space for deliberate conversations and tangible actions that put our values to work.

Incidents of violence impact members of our community in different ways. Please remember that students can seek support from Counseling and Wellness, faculty and staff can avail themselves of support from the EAP available through Human Resources, and the JET office is available to support all members of our community.

Students:

Counseling & Wellness:

counseling@massart.edu or call 617.879.7760

My Student Support Program (MySSP), the online app offering free 24/7 mental health support service

Faculty and Staff:

Mass4You Employee Assistance Program online, or call 1.844.263.1982

All Community Members:

Our office of Justice Equity and Transformation: jet@massart.edu or call 617.879.7220

Thank you for the difference you make and thank you for supporting one another, and for being a part of the MassArt Community.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary".

Mary K. Grant, PhD
President
Massachusetts College of Art and Design