

## Campus Update 10-28-20

Dear South Campus Resident,

I am writing to notify our community of a third incident of bias vandalism that has occurred in our halls. Today, I received notification about an incident of biased vandalism on October 25, 2020. The individual(s) responsible targeted a cultural celebration bulletin board in Wilson Hall, tearing down images of a menorah and kinara.

This behavior has gone too far. It is reprehensible that this pattern remains in our community and has not only continued to target individuals in the Jewish community but now, also, individuals within the Black and African American Communities. To the individual(s) responsible, this behavior has to stop. Your actions are inexcusable and unacceptable.

First, I want to commend our community members. Although these incidents have recurred in our area, I know they do not represent who we are. Out of the three incidents that have occurred, two reports came from residents in our community. Individuals who dared to recognize these incidents were not in line with our values AND chose to act. If anyone else has information regarding this situation, I encourage you to reach out.

We are committed to getting to the bottom of this and holding those responsible accountable. We are also committed to supporting you, our students. Residential Life is currently connecting with our campus partners at Hillel and the African American Cultural Center to create opportunities for education, engagement, and dialogue regarding these identity groups. Please stay tuned for more information.

Now, here is where you come in. If you are in any way impacted, I urge you to join us in disrupting the narrative that events such as these create about our community. We can disprove these notions of intolerance by showing up in allyship to events, initiatives, and programs that uplift our underrepresented communities. Partner with us, show up, and participate. Let's demonstrate that South Campus is a community of acceptance and inclusion.

Sincerely,

Yomarie Diaz

Residence Hall Director, South Campus

Department of Residential Life