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2017 Letter to Campus on Immigration

Kathy Krendl
Otterbein University

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Recommended Citation

Krendl, Kathy, "2017 Letter to Campus on Immigration" (2017). *University Updates & Communications from the University President*. 1.
https://digitalcommons.otterbein.edu/university_updates/1

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

1 South Grove Street
Westerville, OH 43081-2006
TEL 614-823-1420
FAX 614-823-3114

January 30, 2017

Dear Members of the Otterbein Campus Community:

In an effort to keep our community up to date on the recent immigration Executive Order (EO), we are providing the following information. Please note this is a quickly evolving situation as several federal courts took action one day after the President signed the EO and partially stayed parts of the EO. Our focus will remain on safeguarding our students, our employees, and our community.

Students and employees should be assured that Otterbein University is committed to protecting members of our community to the full extent of the law. No information regarding an individual's status is released without a warrant in response to external inquiries. As we seek to be a model for others, our learning community is a place where respect of difference and promotion of civil dialogue are embraced and central to our mission as is our historic commitment to diversity and inclusion. We will continue to monitor the situation and are consulting with our immigration counsel to ensure we are providing you the correct information. Updates will be provided as necessary.

On January 27, 2017, President Trump signed an EO suspending admission to the United States of foreign nationals from the following countries for a period of at least 90 days: **Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen**. Based upon the EO, citizens of these countries risk being refused admission back into the United States upon return from any international travel and should take note of this risk when considering international travel plans while this executive order is in effect. It is unclear when this ban may be lifted. At this time, it appears that individuals already present in the United States will not be impacted.

On January 28, 2017, one day after the President signed the EO, a federal judge issued a temporary stay on the deportation of valid visa holders after they landed at a US airport. This temporary stay will last until a hearing is held on the merits of the case brought by the ACLU and multiple other legal organizations.

As noted, this is a quickly evolving situation, and we will keep you updated. Our priority is to the education, safety and wellbeing of our students and all members of our University community. If you believe you may be affected and have questions, employees may contact Scott Fitzgerald, Director of Human Resources and Legal Affairs, at 614.823.1130 or sfitzgerald@otterbein.edu and students may contact Bob Gatti, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, at 614.823.1251 or rgatti@otterbein.edu. Additional resources are listed below.

Otterbein University Resources

Chaplain's Office

Rev. Dr. Judy Guion-Utsler
614-823-1409

Counseling Center

Dr. Kathy Ryan
614-823-1333

Center for Student Success

Dr. Kate Lehman
Jennifer Bechtold
614-823-1624

Center for Social Justice and Activism

James Prysock
614-823-1312

Employee Assistance Program

1-888-209-7840

Office of Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Robert Gatti, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
614-823-1251

Office of Human Resources

Scott Fitzgerald, Director of Human Resources and Legal Affairs
614-823-1130

There will be an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to come together in the Chapel on Tuesday, January 31, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.

Sincerely,



Kathy A. Krendl
President

Otterbein University Vision

Otterbein University will be nationally recognized as a model community of educators, leaders, and learners who set the pace for higher education and contribute to the common good.

Otterbein University Mission

Otterbein is an inclusive community dedicated to educating the whole person in the context of humane values. Our mission is to prepare graduates to think deeply and broadly, to engage locally and globally, and to advance their professions and communities. An Otterbein education is distinguished by the intentional blending of the liberal arts and professional studies, combined with a unique approach to integrating direct experience into all learning.