



Dear Campus Community,

Yesterday, a video camera recorded as an elderly protester here in Western New York was pushed to the ground by police and a pool of blood immediately formed around his head.

Today, Governor Cuomo says he was able to call and talk to 75-year-old Martin Gugino who is now conscious in the hospital. We of course wish Mr. Gugino a complete and speedy recovery. The governor described the actions of two Buffalo Police Officers as “fundamentally offensive and frightening” and he praised BPD for immediately suspending them and launching an investigation.

Earlier I addressed that our campus values the rights of every person and protestors should be praised for calling to make constructive change in our systems. We should be alarmed that a movement triggered by unjustified brutality toward George Floyd is leading to even more acts of violence, looting, and disgraceful actions. The national discussion is boiling over in many negative ways.

In calling for calm and peaceful solutions, Dr. Martin Luther King once noted, “Hate begets hate; violence begets violence; toughness begets a greater toughness. We must meet the forces of hate with the power of love...”

There remain examples of hateful and reprehensible social posts by young people in Western New York. None are current members of our campus community. While the State University of New York welcomes dialogue, I once again call for people to be constructive and respectful to one another.

I encourage you to join a productive dialogue to address how society can change and improve. We will be adding virtual activities this summer to further assist as we need young people to be part of the solutions. At www.AlfredState.edu/inclusion we will continue to compile messages of hope and on occasion reactions of outrage that we have shared.

[May 31 Alfred State President Dr. Skip Sullivan](#)

“We should pray for justice to be served for all people and encourage everyone to work together for constructive solutions, not destructive...”

[June 1 SUNY Chancellor Dr. Kristina Johnson](#)

“I viewed the killing of George Floyd by the police—without reason, without due process, and without a shred of humanity—with a sense of both outrage and helplessness...”

[June 3 Alfred State Student Affairs Division](#)

“The unrest in the country surrounding the unacceptable death of George Floyd must be acknowledged, and openly discussed, if we are to forge authentic positive change...”

[June 4 SUNY Board of Trustees](#)

“The horror... has held up the largest possible mirror to our society and demonstrated the huge steps that still need to be taken to overcome a legacy of injustice and brutality...”

June 5 Alfred State President Dr. Skip Sullivan

“We should be alarmed that a movement triggered by unjustified brutality toward George Floyd is leading to even more acts of violence, looting, and disgraceful actions. The national discussion is boiling over in many negative ways...”

Alfred State and the SUNY system continue to show our support and hope that through these times we can all work toward enacting positive change.

Sincerely,

Dr. Skip Sullivan
President