



January 30, 2017

Dear Colleagues -

As you know, President Trump issued an Executive Order on Friday, January 27, that banned travel to the United States by nationals and citizens from seven specific countries. On Saturday, January 28, two federal judges temporarily suspended the Executive Order, ruling that those citizens who hold valid visas and green cards, and who have already arrived or are in transit can enter the United States. Governor Cuomo has asked the Port Authority, the Department of State, and the Counsel's Office to explore all legal options to assist and protect the rights of anyone who has been detained at New York airports.

A consequence of these events is that some faculty, students, and staff in our community may experience anxiety about their visa and immigration status. I write to reassure you that SUNY Poly will do everything it can within the law to support everyone in our community, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, or visa status. Diversity and inclusiveness are foundational values for this country and for our university, and we must keep these values in clear view at all times.

We should anticipate further political and legal conflicts along these lines as the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government create new immigration policies and review their legality. Officials within SUNY and New York State will continue to monitor these developments closely.

If you are at risk, please be very careful planning overseas travel. SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher and Chairman of the SUNY Board of Trustees H. Carl McCall have recommended suspending travel to the seven countries listed in the executive order. Additionally, our immigration counsel recommends that students, faculty, or staff from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia, or Yemen avoid leaving the U.S. at this time. We are at your disposal to discuss any plans you may have. The following resources are available for members of our community who have questions or who may be in need of assistance:

Human Resources – sunypolyhr@sunypoly.edu
Graduate Office – graduate@sunypoly.edu
International Student Services - simt@sunyit.edu
Student Affairs – abbie.gorczynski@sunyit.edu
SUNY Poly Legal - mlemire@sunypoly.edu

NYS Employee Assistance Program:

- Albany 518-486-9769 or 800-822-0244 (24/7)
- Utica 315-793-2518
- worklife.ny.gov/eap

William W. Durgin
Provost