



November 1, 2018

Hello HW Family,

I hope this message finds you well. We've had a great fall semester, mid-terms are behind us and we're all feeling the slight chill in the air. For many of us, myself included, this is an awesome time of year to be in Chicago as the season changes and we look forward to celebrating the coming holidays with friends and family. Thank you to everyone that attended the State of the College last week. The feedback and support we received from staff, faculty and students has been amazing. I'm confident Harold Washington College will continue to grow and stand out as a leader among colleges in the state of Illinois.

Recently, I have been reflecting on the various events that have occurred across our country and our city – historic trials, weather catastrophes and the tragic event that occurred in Pittsburg. Sadly, there's been too many to reflect on. However, every day I come to HW, I am reminded of the sense of belonging and community we have here. It has been inspiring to hear that our students have gathered to discuss recent events across the city, that our students are eager to participate in shared leadership, to ask questions and challenge current and future leaders across our city, and that our students are organizing in groups to encourage voter registration and to vote early.

Certainly, there are many questions in the air with respect to leadership in our country, future leadership of our city, equity and fairness within our communities and our colleges. In these times of change and uncertainty, the message to our HW family is, you belong, you are safe, and everyone deserves to be heard. Alone we cannot solve the problems of the world but together, sharing ideas, letting our voices be heard, voting and cross-collaborating, we can achieve good things for our community. Let's not lose sight of the importance of community in times like this. It is the reason that we exist, and as educators, as leaders, we need to nurture and share the power and rich benefit that diversity brings to our college.

Harold Washington, the late Mayor, once said, "Our concern is to heal. Our concern is to bring together." This is a good message for these times. May the coming weeks be filled with great energy and high spirits. I look forward to seeing you throughout the college campus and celebrating with you at the end of the semester all of the accomplishments we've had together.

Sincerely,

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