



Office of the President

January 20, 2021

Daemen College
Students, Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you and your family are staying safe and healthy and are looking forward to a rewarding semester.

I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge an important historical event that occurred today. Kamala Harris was sworn into office as vice president of the United States. She is the first woman in history to be elected to that position, and the first woman of color.

One hundred years ago women won the right to vote. Today women make up 51% of the population, but still are underrepresented in our government bodies, especially women of color. The election of vice president Harris is an important step forward in our nation's effort to be more inclusive and diverse.

Daemen College acknowledges that whether in elected office or other areas of work and life, representation matters. This attitude is reflected in one of the college's values: inclusive excellence. We believe in the value of cultural, individual, and experiential differences present throughout the institution and embrace this diversity through a culture of inclusion.

Daemen's mission is to prepare creative, ethically-minded leaders for a diverse and interconnected world by integrating the intellectual strengths acquired through the liberal arts with the preparation necessary for professional excellence to make meaningful contributions to society. Thank you for being a part of this mission and our community, and I look forward to the start of our spring semester.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Gary A. Olson', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Gary A. Olson
President