

From: [Communications](#)
To: [Communications](#)
Subject: Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Thoughts on the Rittenhouse Verdict
Date: Friday, November 19, 2021 5:29:38 PM

Dear Lawrence Community,

The news of the verdict in the Rittenhouse trial is one that brings grief, disappointment, and frustration to many of us. This trial has, yet again, highlighted significant areas of tension within society that are no doubt present in our campus community. It is almost certain that the days ahead will bring more commentary and debate about our values, our sense of justice, and the role that race and racism plays in these issues.

As an institution that has committed itself to becoming a more inclusive, equity-minded, antiracist community that welcomes and celebrates diversity, we stand in solidarity with those seeking justice and transparency. We send our deepest sympathies to the families of those that were lost in this tragedy, and we encourage our community to tend to those among us who feel a sense of hurt and betrayal at this time.

As was noted in the message to the campus community from Rev. Linda J. Morgan-Clement, we are offering a variety of spaces and ways in which we can gather over the final days of the term, including the communal gathering for all Lawrentians in the Nathan Pusey Room tomorrow between 1:00 – 7 :00 p.m., the Diversity & Intercultural Center, and the Esch Hurvis Center for Spiritual & Religious Life.

Remember, we are stronger together. Let's be there for one another.

Best,
Dr. Eric Mayes
Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion
Professor of Education