

JESUIT STUDENT GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE

JSGA

The Jesuit Student Government Alliance (JSGA) is the formal association of all sitting undergraduate Student Government Presidents of all Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) member and associate member institutions.

March 14, 2019

JSGA student body presidents released the following statement regarding Hate Crimes and Bias-Related Incidents:

With the establishment of the Jesuit Student Government Alliance (JSGA), we, student body presidents at Jesuit institutions across the United States, collectively recognize and condemn the trend of prejudice and discrimination that still extends across our campuses.

Many of our communities have experienced prominent hate crimes and bias-related incidents. Our peers at Boston College, St. Joseph's University, College of the Holy Cross, and Regis University, among others, have endured high-profile instances of discrimination this academic year. Each of these events has deeply harmed our students and communities, continuing to demonstrate that Jesuit Catholic institutions are not exempt from ingrained cultural norms that discriminate against individuals on the basis of identity. These norms are further expressed through microaggressions and day-to-day incidents, both inside and outside of the classroom, that degrades our students' sense of safety and belonging.

Identifying and reacting to only the most prominent examples of bias cannot fully deconstruct the attitudes that encourage them. It is far past time that each of our institutions takes comprehensive and impactful steps to build more equitable communities, and we are committed to addressing the normalization of prejudice in collaboration with our respective administrations. Change must come from all levels of our community -- students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and the Board of Trustees. We as students need to hold ourselves accountable and address these issues at every level at our institutions. The initiatives below engage critical areas in the improvement of our campus cultures. While some institutions may have steps and initiatives in place, we believe all institutions should:

- Review and update pre-arrival education, orientation, and first-year programs to include more programming around diversity, inclusion, and equity;
- Work to implement social justice initiatives and experiential learning into academic curriculums;
- Provide mandatory diversity and inclusion competency training for student groups and organizations, faculty, and staff;

- Expand resources for victims or other members of the community who are affected by these incidents;
- Pursue avenues for continued collaboration with critical stakeholders and the greater campus community.

We recognize that the timelines of these action items will vary by institution; however, we believe they are necessary to foster change.

The undersigned members of the JSGA:

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