



March 19, 2021

Dear Members of the University Community,

The University stands in solidarity with our Asian, Asian American and Pacific Islander students, faculty and staff and members of the local Scranton community and condemns any acts of hate, racism and violence.

We join the nation in mourning the killing of eight people this week in Atlanta, six of whom were Asian women. These murders follow a surge of racism, violence and harassment against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Our prayers are with the victims and their families and with those who live in fear of similar actions against them. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, we use our voices and direct our actions to serve communities affected by hate and violence.

Nationally, nearly 3,800 hate incidents have been reported against AAPI individuals over the last year, mostly against women. This is deeply troubling. While discrimination has risen during the COVID-19 pandemic, anti-Asian racism is longstanding in the United States.

We are committed to promoting opportunities to build better understanding of the richness and diversity of Asian cultures and experiences. I would like to remind members of our campus community that should you witness or experience discrimination, harassment or bias, [resources](#) are available within the Office of Equity and Diversity.

At this time, we commit ourselves in words and deeds to ensure that all those of Asian descent and other marginalized groups know that The University of Scranton stands with them.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D.  
Acting President  
Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs