



OFFICE *of the* PRESIDENT
SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

December 1, 2014

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,

I hope you were able to enjoy Thanksgiving, a time when we gather with loved ones to express our gratitude for the many blessings we share.

Last week's events in Ferguson, Missouri left our hearts restless as we headed into the break reflecting on issues of justice, race and equality. Regardless of one's opinions of the tragic shooting of Michael Brown, the grand jury decision and subsequent events, we cannot ignore the challenging and difficult questions they raise. The heartbreak of the Brown family and the people of Ferguson are a stark reminder that we are still striving to live up to the ideals of our nation's founding.

Here at Seattle University, diversity and social justice are central to our educational mission of empowering leaders for a just and humane world. It is particularly important for all of us to engage one another on the difficult issues emerging from Ferguson.

Last week, as part of the "Moral Mondays" series coordinated by Tyrone Brown, an SU alumnus who works in our Counseling and Psychological Services office, a number of students, faculty and staff gathered in the Chapel of St. Ignatius to reflect on the grand jury decision as it was being read. From 6-8 p.m. tonight, an event titled "Emergence Strategy Workshop: Ferguson in Seattle?" will take place in Casey Commons (RSVP to brownt@seattleu.edu). Tomorrow evening, Seattle University law students and University of Washington law students are leading a candlelight vigil in Sullivan Hall. This Thursday, Dec. 4, from 6 to 8 p.m., a community dialogue will be sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs at the Hearth in the Student Center. The next "Moral Mondays" event will take place [Dec. 8](#) with an Amnesty International report on Ferguson.

In other important ways, we are working to deepen our commitment to diversity and inclusiveness. The framework of the new Core curriculum was designed in part to embrace the richness of our diverse and multicultural society. Last year, I commissioned the Task Force on Diversity and Inclusive Excellence. Led by Natasha Martin, associate professor in the School of Law, and Dr. Alvin Sturdivant, associate vice president for the Division of Student Development, this body of faculty, staff and students is assessing Seattle University's climate around diversity and inclusion and will provide recommendations for improvement to me. Early next quarter, you will be invited to participate in a survey on these issues and I sincerely hope you will do so.

I do hope that each and every one of you will find ways to engage in these and other activities and initiatives as we continue to build the sort of community we all aspire to be.

Sincerely,

Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J.
President