



OFFICE *of the* PRESIDENT
SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

February 3, 2015

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,

I am writing to inform you that the university has decided to become a tobacco-free campus. Beginning July 1, 2015, the use of all tobacco products will be prohibited on university-owned property.

The decision was made after a thorough and deliberate process that was initiated and led by Student Government Seattle University (SGSU) and included extensive outreach to campus constituents. I want to especially thank SGSU and the Tobacco-Free Campus Exploratory Committee for all of their work and the research they collected to inform the decision. Feedback from all members of the university community was invited through surveys, a referendum, focus groups and other meetings and events. Representatives of the committee also consulted with the university's leadership, Academic Assembly and the Deans' Council. Each leadership body endorsed the proposal.

The findings revealed a prevailing sentiment to become a tobacco-free campus in order to promote the health and well being of our community. We join more than 1,000 tobacco-free and an additional 500 smoke-free campuses around the country, including a number of campuses in Washington state. As we move into the implementation phase, we must continue to be sensitive to impacts on *all* members of our community.

A new task force headed by Ryan Hamachek, director of the Office of Wellness and Health Promotion, will lead the implementation effort. You will receive more information, including information for those interested in learning about smoking cessation programs, in the coming months as we transition to a tobacco-free campus.

Again, I want to thank everyone who was involved in the process and especially our students for taking the lead on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J.
President