



September 28, 2011

Dear Ship Family:

Shippensburg University has a history and tradition of providing to its students — and all members of the campus community — a safe and supportive atmosphere in which they can learn and work. Our commitment to that principle remains strong even as our society faces many changes that run counter to that ideal.

In recent years, there have been cases, at the basic education and higher education levels, in which students, in particular, or others have been harassed or bullied. These incidents of abusive behavior have, unfortunately, sometimes resulted in mental and physical harm to individuals and in some cases, the suicide of the victims. It is especially tragic when such cases occur at a university where individuals join together to form a community of support and mutual respect.

The University has various policies and programs in place for students and employees that address harassment in any form, including electronic. These policies are available on our website — <http://www.ship.edu> — and I encourage you to review them to familiarize yourself with them. In addition to policies, we also have a high expectation level that we will all treat each other appropriately. Those expectations are conveyed in many ways, including during orientation for new students and new employees.

Following in and attached to this e-mail is a statement by Dr. John C. Cavanaugh, Chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, reinforcing the system's zero tolerance of harassment. We ask that you, too, join in that zero tolerance and continue to make Ship a place at which everyone feels welcome.

Bill



PASSHE
Pennsylvania State System
of Higher Education

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR, DIXON UNIVERSITY CENTER, 2986 NORTH SECOND STREET,
HARRISBURG, PA 17110-1201
717-720-4010 | www.passhe.edu

September 26, 2011

Dear PASSHE Community:

Among the most important roles of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education is the creation of a welcoming culture of inclusion on our campuses. Harassment of any kind — whether face-to-face or electronically — cannot be tolerated.

The continuing reports of these attacks, sometimes resulting in suicide, indicate that bullying remains a serious problem. Research indicates that any student could potentially be a target, and that LGBTQIA students are especially vulnerable. We need not to let up our efforts regarding how dangerous bullying can be, and the terrible effects it has on victims and their friends and families.

All of us must commit ourselves to addressing this very serious issue and eliminate harassment in all its forms. Many of our universities have hosted programs that can serve as examples for us all. I encourage you to learn about the programs offered on your campus.

All efforts aimed at eliminating bullying are to be commended. These programs should be the standard. My office stands ready to assist PASSHE universities in helping them ensure a safe living, learning, and working environment for our students, faculty, and staff.

John C. Cavanaugh, Ph.D.
Chancellor