



To our Judge Community,

As the Dean of Students, I am overwhelmingly proud of the action that various student groups have taken in recent weeks in response to the unkindness we experienced on 10/7/22 at our Diversity Fair. In a previous letter to our community, I mentioned this occurrence, but also encouraged our student leaders to reach out to one another and to release statements in response to promoting a kinder, more caring community. Below, you will find a sample of those statements. We will also be releasing pieces of these statements on our social media platforms as a way of continuing this dialogue amongst our students. It is a great privilege to advocate on behalf of these students who work to make our community a place of care and belonging.

ALLIES CLUB STATEMENT

The ALLIES Club is dedicated to providing a safe, loving, and supportive environment for all students, but particularly for our LGBTQ+ students and its allies. We were founded only a few years ago, but we believe our presence on campus gives an important voice to our students of all different identities.

Unfortunately, recent events have caused some of our members to feel unsafe and unwelcome amongst the student body. Diversity Week was a time to celebrate what makes our student body unique, whether it be our different races, genders, or ethnicities, we ultimately come together and share in a moment of celebration. At the fair three Fridays ago, ALLIES Club and its attending members were mocked and threatened. While threats of this kind are a common occurrence for members of the LGBTQ+ community, they are not tolerated here at Judge.

Our handbook states: “In our safe, caring, respectful environment, students are empowered to become builders of a more just society.” We are doing a disservice to ourselves, our school, and those that love and support us when we make the conscious decision to incite fear and hate amongst our peers, even when veiled as a joke.

ALLIES Executive Board: Sam Hill, Lukas Larrabee, Tessa Poppe, Ava Sibthorp, Nico Gomez
ALLIES Moderators: Mrs. Aundraya Sobotka, Mrs. Sara Strickland

Student Council Statement in Support of ALLIES

To our beloved Judge community,

In light of events that occurred during our diversity week, we, as your elected representatives on campus, are compelled to speak out in partnership with a group of our peers. The blatant unkindness for our classmates within the *ALLIES Club* during the diversity fair is an inaccurate representation of all that we believe and stand for as Bulldogs.

As an elected student council, we will not tolerate hateful behavior in any sense. Any comment, aside, or “joke” that threatens the safety and wellbeing of fellow Bulldogs hurts all of us collectively. These actions make it difficult for students to learn and express themselves authentically. *ALLIES CLUB* is built on the foundation of unity and love for all, and any further acts of hatred towards them or any other on our campus will face direct social intervention by student leaders. Even so, this is not about consequences but about emulating *cura personalis* in our daily lives. We firmly believe that all Judge students, faculty, and staff are capable of cultivating a loving and inclusive place. Now more than ever, it is expected of our students to uphold this standard of excellence.

With love in our hearts,
Sam Daskalakis (**Student Body President**)
Lane Farr (**Student Body Vice-President**)
Leah Han (**Student Body Secretary**)
& **Student Council**

Nikki Clifford and Brooke Healy (**Student Council Advisors**)

I am hopeful that these isolated incidents are behind us, but it is our responsibility to keep the lines of communication open with our students to remind them of our expectations. We treat each other with kindness and respect at Judge, and our campus is a welcome place for all.

With my great thanks to all of you, and especially to our leaders in the ALLIES and Student Council organizations for their fine advocacy,

Matt Douglas
Dean of Students

