

*Sent on Dec. 23, 2015*

Dear campus community,

You may be aware of a recent blog post that references Wayne State in connection with a former student whose life was tragically ended through a horrific act of senseless violence. Her name was Kajavia Globe. From what I understand, Kajavia was a bright young woman with a promising future. She unfortunately left behind that promising future, along with grieving family and friends.

Although Kajavia has not been enrolled here since 2012, all students who attend or graduate from Wayne State are a part of our history, as we are a part of theirs. We have a shared experience and a common bond, so we too feel a loss at the passing of this young woman.

The discussions that have taken place regarding this tragedy have caused us to pause and reflect on how we act in such situations. Some felt our response was limited, and a signal that we wanted to distance ourselves from this tragedy, and Kajavia. Others felt that our response did not sufficiently represent and embrace our value of diversity and inclusion.

To those who expressed their feelings regarding Kajavia and her connection with Wayne State, thank you. We will learn from your passion and compassion. To those who question our commitment to diversity and inclusion, we believe that we are moving in the right direction, but we also know this requires constant effort and monitoring. Our chief diversity officer, Marquita Chamblee, recently began holding open dialogues on diversity and inclusion. We invite you to be part of these discussions, which will be announced to the campus when they are scheduled. I have said many times that diversity is a strength for Wayne State, but that we cannot take it for granted. Let's build upon this strength to ensure that Wayne State is a safe and welcoming place for all.

Wayne State exists because of students. Kajavia was one of our students – a fellow Wayne State Warrior. We can best honor her memory by working to ensure that all students are given every opportunity to succeed. Please join me in this commitment.

M. Roy Wilson  
President, Wayne State University