

Dear Fellow Members of the Amherst Community,

I write to invite you to attend *Speaking to Silence: Conversations on Community and Individual Responsibility*, and to encourage all students, staff, and faculty to participate in this important day of dialogue on Friday, November 2. As you know, all classes will be cancelled, and offices will be closed, to offer us the time and space to engage in a program of presentations and discussions with one another, the details of which I will outline below. As you participate in the day's activities, we feel that it would be helpful if you consider the following questions, which will frame our conversations:

1. How can individuals or groups go about taking responsibility for implementing change at Amherst?
2. What are our next steps? What can we do to promote community on campus, either as individuals or as members of groups?

**Please arrive at the Coolidge Cage by 9:15 a.m.**

**We will enter LeFrak Gymnasium from the Cage. The first part of the program will be held in LeFrak.**

## **MORNING PRESENTATIONS IN LEFRAK GYMNASIUM**

### **Opening Remarks by the President**

The day will begin with opening remarks by Biddy Martin.

### **Presentation I: 9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m.**

Our first presentation, titled "Changing the Conversation: A Facilitated Discussion about Sexual Violence," will be led by Gina Smith, nationally recognized legal and policy expert on sexual assault and misconduct, and four Amherst students.

### **Presentation II: 10:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m.**

Our second presentation, titled "Growing Our Community: Growing Ourselves," will be led by Rhonda Cobham-Sander, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Black Studies and English and former Special Assistant to the President for Diversity.

### **Morning Discussions in Small Groups: Locations across Campus, 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Following these two morning sessions, we will break into small groups (you will receive a ticket with the location of your group when you arrive at the Cage) for conversations and reflections on the morning presentations. Student facilitators will lead these sessions.

### **Lunch and Conversation, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., Valentine Quad**

A catered lunch will be provided for all.

### **Afternoon Discussions in Small Groups: Locations across Campus, 1:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

We will return to our discussion groups, in their original locations, to explore the topic of “Community and Individual Responsibility.” Again, students will facilitate these discussions.

### **Closing Gathering on Valentine Quad, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

A time for refreshments and reflections.

Please feel free to be in touch if you have questions. I have provided some additional information below. Bidy and I look forward to sharing this experience with you.

All my best,

Greg Call

Peter R. Pouncey Professor of Mathematics and Dean of the Faculty

### **Some Things to Note**

Counselors from the Community Crisis Response Team will be available to anyone who wants to meet with them throughout the day in the Chapin lounge. More private spaces in Chapin will also be available. The Counseling Center and the Health Center will be staffed and open for everyone.

Chapin Chapel has been established as a quiet space for contemplation.

In addition the following facilities will be kept open: the Music Library, second floor, Arms Music Center; the Science Library, Merrill Science Center, third floor; the Babbott Room, the Octagon; Chapin Hall; Moss Quantitative Center; the Writing Center.

### **Breakfast and Dinner**

Valentine will be open for breakfast from 7:00 a.m. to 9 a.m. and for dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Valentine will not serve lunch. Lunch will be catered on Valentine Quad.