

February 17, 2017

Dear Campus Community,

The University of Utah is a global community with a global footprint. It is made better by the contributions of students, scholars, and staff from around the world. The University thrives through the open exchange of ideas and people. Our global community ensures that a wide range of experiences, insights, and perspectives is brought to the classroom and to scholarly endeavors, enabling creative solutions to real-world challenges. At the U, we address urgent societal issues and strive for impact on the global stage.

I write to express our unwavering commitment to all in our university community, and specifically to all those in our international community. In this spirit, I want to share with you an excerpt of what Graduate School Dean Dave Kieda expressed at a recent campus event (complete remarks are posted on the Graduate School [website](#)):

Refugees from Somalia, Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Sudan, and immigrants from Mexico, Dominican Republic, and Cuba have joined our Utah community as University students, faculty and staff. Some of these individuals now serve as leaders of public education and social work in Utah, giving generously back to the nation and University which welcomed them. In short, you are integral members of our University community....

I have personally seen the impacts of immigration restrictions on my former postdoctoral research associate in astrophysics from Iran.... Visa restrictions forced her to be continually separated from her family and new husband for most of three years. Despite being a key researcher in the field of high energy astrophysics, travel limitations frustrated her ability to present invited talks at international conferences on her breakthrough results.

The University promises that your journey is also our journey. We are dedicated to assist each of you on your academic, research, and career goals. We will make sure you reach these dreams. We will strongly advocate for the role of our international students in the mission of the University and its myriad opportunities, and we will work to remove obstacles in your path....

Our commitment to you is stronger than ever.

I join Dean Kieda in expressing deep support and gratitude for our international community.



Ruth V. Watkins
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs