

**MASSACHUSETTS  
STATE COLLEGE  
ASSOCIATION**  
MTA/NEA



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We, the Worcester State University chapter of the Massachusetts State College Association, hereby assert our solidarity with our students, faculty colleagues, and WSU staff and administrative employees. This statement is occasioned by the US government's adoption of ill-advised and possibly unconstitutional new policies restricting, and in some cases completely banning, immigration to the United States. We believe that policies such as these are generally harmful to democracy and, in particular, for institutions of higher education and research.

Encouraging the open consideration of the widest possible variety of ideas is the only way for a university such as ours to perform its service to the public, and those ideas must come from people of various national, ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds. As our universities have become more diverse in all of these ways, they have become stronger. Any action, local or national, that impedes this growth diminishes our ability to fulfill our fundamental purpose.

In addition to preventing this growth in diversity, the new immigration policies will likely have a chilling effect that will make all members of our academic community feel less safe in presenting, discussing, or researching ideas that might not meet with 'official' approval. Academic freedom is closely aligned with the freedom of speech protected by the US constitution and is crucial for the health of our country and its institutions of higher education. College and university classrooms and campuses are critical sites for informed, civil, and multi-partisan discussion.

Rather than excluding people and ideas, we at Worcester State University honor them. As scholars and educators, this is our core belief and our mission. We affirm our commitment to making our campus a safe and welcoming community for all its members, regardless of nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, ability, or sexual orientation. We also reaffirm our commitment to serving Worcester and its surrounding communities as they continue their long history of welcoming immigrants and refugees.