



From the President's Desk – Disturbing Occurrence
October 26, 2016

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,

Good morning. I'm writing to share information and my thoughts related to a situation that occurred on our campus, and which is deeply disturbing to me and our community. Recently a faculty member reported to the University Police Department an offensive picture and words on a whiteboard in one of our academic buildings. The words were "KILL (N-Word)," and the drawing showed a stick figure hanging from a tree.

The whiteboard was erased, and the identification of the person responsible for the graffiti is unknown. No threats or other activity related to this matter have been reported. The University Police Department increased its patrols to try to catch anyone in the act, but no repeat occurrences have been reported or seen.

We read about these kinds of things happening on campuses and in other public places across the country, but it is personally distressing to see it here, a place that cares so deeply about and intentionally works so diligently to foster a community that supports each other in our diversity and inclusion. While occurrences such as this are rare at Florida Gulf Coast University, we strongly condemn this hateful expression which is contrary to the civil and mutually respectful culture of our campus community.

Wilson G. Bradshaw, Ph.D.
President

Equal Opportunity Educator and Employer