

Dear Members of the Northwestern Community,

The results of yesterday's presidential election surprised almost everyone, including those of us in the Northwestern community. For some, it may have been a pleasant surprise, but for others it undoubtedly is a cause of great concern. And for many, it brought a sense of relief that this bitter and divisive campaign is finally over.

I hope all of us now can set aside whatever differences may have occurred during the campaign and continue to do what the University does best: teach, learn, discover and reflect. We come to Northwestern from many different backgrounds, with many different beliefs. But while we may hold those beliefs passionately and advocate them forcefully, we should not let them divide us. Northwestern is committed to being a welcoming and inclusive community for all, regardless of their beliefs, and I assure you that will not change.

Several organizations and offices on our campuses already are offering opportunities to reflect on yesterday's election and to offer support for members of the community. I know that this will continue in a variety of ways this week and beyond, and I encourage you to participate in these discussions.

We are fortunate to live in a country that has overcome difficult challenges and remained unified despite deep divisions and extraordinary changes. Throughout its history, Northwestern, too, has faced daunting issues and undergone significant transformations. In doing so, the University has not just survived, but thrived, thanks to the dedication of the Northwestern community. I am confident that with your help, this will continue and Northwestern will remain a place of hope, inspiration and welcoming support for all.

Best wishes,
Morton Schapiro
President and Professor

