

President's Statement on Executive Order on Immigration, Jan. 30, 2017

Dear WKU Faculty, Staff and Students:

Like many of you I have watched with great interest as events have unfolded over the weekend following the White House Executive Order issued on Friday banning travel to the United States from seven countries. First and foremost, I want to send the message to our international students and faculty that you are an important member of the WKU family, and you are safe and welcome here.

University officials have identified 22 students and three faculty members who are directly impacted by this action. We are reaching out to each of them individually and advising that they not travel out of the United States while this ban is in place. Additionally, we are offering the appropriate resources and assistance to each as needed. At this time, we are aware of no WKU students or faculty members impacted by this ban who are currently overseas or being prevented from re-entering the country.

My request to our campus community is that we remain focused on ensuring that our campus is a safe and welcoming place to all of our students, regardless of their nationality. I would also ask that you be especially sensitive to those directly impacted by this order. We will work to ensure that they are able to continue on a successful path to graduation.

To those students needing assistance, please contact the International Student Office at 270-745-4857. Faculty or staff needing assistance, please contact Ms. Andrea Anderson at 270-745-5398.

WKU officials will remain in close contact with the impacted students and faculty, and we will continue to work to fully understand all the variables in play with this action. Internationalization remains a high priority at WKU, and the University is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all people, regardless of nationality.

Thanks to each of you for your attention on this important matter.

Gary A. Ransdell