



**University of Oregon**  
College of Arts and Sciences

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## **Letter to American English Institute Students**

### **RE: Recent USA Presidential Election**

Dear University of Oregon American English Institute Student,

You are probably aware that the recent election in the United States resulted in Donald Trump becoming the President-Elect. He will become President on January 20, 2017. Outgoing President Barack Obama has promised a smooth and peaceful transition of government to Mr. Trump.

During the presidential campaign, Mr. Trump said many hateful things about people from different countries, from different religions than his own, about disabled people, and about women. I and the leadership at UO **do not support** these statements. We welcome people of **all** backgrounds to the University of Oregon. We welcome **you**.

When I visited with many of you at American English Institute (AEI) yesterday, I told you that we are honored and privileged to have you here. International students make up 13% (about 2500 students) of the University of Oregon. Our mission, the reason we exist as a public university, is to make sure that students such as yourselves can learn here and help us learn from you. You enrich our community.

### ***In short, we want you here at the University of Oregon***

When I visited, I also shared how four of my children have graduated from UO (with majors in Economics, Environmental Studies, French, and Geography, plus a minor in Chemistry). I also have another son who is currently in the History department, and another son who will start attending UO next year. Because my children are here, I often think about the university as being my family. You are part of that family, and I will support you just as I support my own children.

Finally, I want to assure you that the University of Oregon and the American English Institute (AEI) already are and will remain open and welcoming to all people, regardless of their religion, ethnicity, nationality, gender or sexual orientation. AEI is a safe place where students can learn in a supportive environment based on mutual respect.

Please talk to any AEI faculty or staff member if you have concerns or questions. They want to help you.

With deep appreciation for having you with me at the University of Oregon,

W. Andrew Marcus  
Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

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