



Theta Nu Xi

Multicultural Sorority, Inc.

For Immediate Release
August 12th, 2017

STATEMENT: Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc., and UVA Chapter Founders Condemn Brazen Racism and Hate in Charlottesville, VA

Chapel Hill, NC – As events transpire in Charlottesville, the founders of the Pi Chapter of Theta Nu Xi at the University of Virginia have issued the following statement:

As founding members of a chapter of a national sorority based on principles of social justice, diversity, and multiculturalism, we are broken-hearted and disgusted at the brazen display of hate at UVA and in Charlottesville.

Fifteen years ago, the Pi chapter was established to serve as an example of diversity on grounds and in the community. Our organization is based on unity, mutual respect, and proactive inclusivity. During the chapter's first few months on grounds, a biracial student was subject to a racially-motivated assault. Combating this type of ignorance was the reason we established a social justice sorority on grounds.

Fifteen years later, this racism has gained a national platform and those who espouse notions of racial superiority have become emboldened. Make no mistake: This is not a rally in honor of history. These individuals do not recognize the brutal history of Virginia and the sacrifice of the slaves who built the University. These are cowards who protest equality because they fear losing their place of privilege and power in a country whose racial make-up and society continues to change, as the United States always has. They proclaim no noble message and they demand no just cause. They are driven by hate and anger, and they have no place at UVA.

The founders of the Pi chapter and Theta Nu Xi as a whole condemn such intolerance and we call on the University administration to do the same. Use your bully pulpit; stand on your platform. Together, we must stand up against racism, rise up against sexism, speak out about xenophobia, call out homophobia, and do something about the lack of compassion around us. We invite other Greek and non-Greek letter organizations, students, faculty and administrators, alumni, and anyone who is a friend of UVA or Charlottesville to join us. Not just today, but as long as it takes. We are unified not despite our differences, but because of them.

Words matter. So we say to the incoming and returning students of color, to those anywhere who feel targeted by this hate in any way, and all those who are afraid: You are not alone. We will stand with you. We will lift you up. We are allies. And, even when our leaders are silent, we will speak, because as James Baldwin once said, "It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have."



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For more information or to speak to a representative of Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc., please contact Tanya Arditi Saavedra at director.communications@thetanuxi.org.

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Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc. was founded on April 11, 1997, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with a mission to promote leadership, multiculturalism, and self improvement through academic excellence, involvement in and service to the campus and community, as well as being living examples of sisterhood across different races, cultures, religions, backgrounds, and lifestyles. To learn more about Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc., visit www.thetanuxi.org.