Message from Dr. Frederick to HU Community

Election Day 2016 ushered in the leadership of President-elect Donald J. Trump. We extend congratulations to the President-elect who, in his acceptance speech, acknowledged the need to “bind the wounds of division” and pledged to be the President for all Americans. This election brought to closure a long and often bitter and offensive campaign. The messages were polarizing for some while being liberating for others.

It is much too early to know what the outcome of the elections will mean for America and the world but the time is now for all of us to show true respect for democracy and the processes we use to elect people to public office. We have entered a period of change. The democratic process worked in delivering the first African American president and so we must continue to believe in it and be supportive of it. The division in the country requires thought leaders, bridge builders, and provocative innovators. Howard University will continue to produce them through our collective efforts.

Thoughtful deliberations have already begun on our campus. This is a true testament to Howard University’s leadership response to find justice and solutions when confronted with polarizing events. Our academic mission and environment provide the right climate in which to find what is good and right for America and the globe. In this pursuit, we will continue the necessary task of making absolutely certain that we preserve the important outcomes of opportunity, equality, civil rights and civil liberties, which were accomplished on our campus by pioneering students, faculty and staff who have come before us.

I ask that you join me in sending expressions of appreciation to Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton for her dedicated service to our country and the world. Her commitment to human rights has touched all of humanity and will long be remembered.

Howard also salutes its alumni who were elected to some of the highest levels of public office. The Honorable Kamala Harris was elected by Californians to the United States Senate, and Congressmen Elijah Cummings of Maryland and Gregory Meeks of New York were re-elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Please join me at Chapel on Sunday, November 13, for reflection under the words of Dr. Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children’s Defense Fund, who has been a constant soldier in the quest for opportunity and equality.

In truth and service, the time is always now.

Wayne A. I. Frederick
President