

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

October 4, 2017

To the RISD Community,

As we look ahead to welcoming parents, alumni, and friends to campus on Friday for RISD Weekend, it is challenging to process the magnitude of the global tragedies that have impacted us all in recent weeks. Yet, it is in moments like these that we need to reaffirm more than ever our own sense of shared community and mutual support.

While many are struggling to pull their lives together in the wake of recent devastating natural disasters, many others are now reeling from the horrific violence in Las Vegas on Sunday night. Whether or not you were personally affected, or have friends or family members who were directly involved in these events, as humans we all suffer when we see others in such pain.

Here at RISD, I encourage all of us to reach out to each other and hold each other up as best we can during these difficult days. While throwing yourself into your work may be one way to cope, please remember to also take the time to talk with your friends in studio, faculty members, mentors, and the staff members here to assist. In addition, support is available for students in Counseling and Psychological Services (counserv@risd.edu) and through other members of the Student Affairs team. For faculty and staff, [AllOne](#), our Employee Assistance provider, offers confidential counseling and referral/resource services 24 hours a day at [800-451-1834](tel:800-451-1834).

I hope you find some sense of solace in knowing that you are part of a caring community and that we are all committed to helping one another in any way we can.

As we come together for [RISD Weekend](#) in the days ahead, I look forward to seeing you around campus.

Sincerely,



Rosanne Somerson
President

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