

ADI Statement on Snapchat Incident at SUNY Plattsburgh

02/21/18-The Adirondack Diversity Initiative (ADI) is deeply saddened by recent events and ongoing challenges to creating a holistically welcoming environment at SUNY Plattsburgh. The recent event in which a student wrote an offensive message about lynching African Americans using Snapchat, has led to anger and protests on campus but also anger and frustration in the surrounding Adirondack communities. Although ADI does not exist to serve as judge or jury, or to stand in opinion on how specific issues should be resolved, we do believe we have an active role in voicing a vision for our communities.

The Adirondack Diversity Initiative strongly supports and works towards creating communities in which people of all race, color, ethnicity, language, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, gender, socio-economic status, age, and physical and mental ability feel safe where ever they are and where each individual is able to develop to their full potential and participate fully in the community. This foundational importance of equality and inclusivity is vital in creating welcoming and inclusive communities for all individuals, whether resident or visitor. ADI puts the utmost value on civility and respect in our discourse, providing education for self and community, and we support and encourage the difficult conversations and actions that lead to systemic, positive change.

We stand in support of all those hurt by the recent events and we challenge ourselves and each of you to continue working towards making the Adirondacks welcoming to all.