

Dear students, faculty, and staff,

We anticipate protests will continue on campus in the coming days and want to reiterate our commitment to freedom of expression through public discourse, including the right to peacefully and lawfully protest. It is not only protected by the First Amendment but also a core value of the University of Minnesota. The University is committed to protecting the rights and wellbeing of all members of our community.

To ensure the safety of those who work and study on our campus, we plan to close buildings along the Northrop Mall on the East Bank area of campus at 2 p.m. today. Other East Bank buildings may move to U Card access only. Building updates will be communicated via [SAFE-U messages](#). Refer to those notifications for more information.

Classes scheduled in the affected buildings after 2 p.m. should be moved to remote delivery or rescheduled to another location. Reduced operations will apply to only those employees impacted by these access changes and they should work remotely if possible. Please watch for follow-up messages from the Provost's Office and Office of Human Resources for more information. For others, please carry your U Card with you at all times.

We recognize that with freedom of expression comes responsibility. Protesters are expected to uphold the safety of others, not interfere with normal campus operations, and adhere to [student](#) and [employee](#) conduct policies. We urge everyone who engages to remain nonviolent, peaceful, and follow both state laws and University policies, including [restrictions prohibiting tents and encampments on campus](#). Discriminatory vandalism and defacements such as stickers and graffiti—some of which promote violence—are hurtful to many and violate [University](#) and [Twin Cities campus](#) policies.

The University unequivocally condemns vandalism, threatening behavior, and acts of violence, and these will not be tolerated on our campus. Such behavior not only undermines the principles of public discourse and respect for others, but also jeopardizes the safety and wellbeing of our community. All members of our community are encouraged to use the [Bias Response and Referral Network](#) to report incidents of harassment, bias, and discrimination.

Together let us continue to uphold a community that supports and values nonviolent, [peaceful, and lawful protest](#), kindness, and safety for all.

Sincerely,

Rachel Croson
Executive Vice President and Provost

Ken Horstman
Vice President for Human Resources

Calvin Phillips
Vice President for Student Affairs