

Penn State University President Eric Barron began the Forum on Black Affairs annual MLK Banquet in January by reflecting on the highs and lows of Penn State's "All In" initiative. As part of his reflection on the work being done in creating a more inclusive Penn State community, President Barron offered a few of his favorite quotes from Martin Luther King Jr. Among those quotes, President Barron referenced MLK's iconic line from his *Letter from the Birmingham Jail*, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." It was refreshing and inspiring to see President Barron humbly express that Penn State must continue to work at becoming a campus that more clearly lives up to its commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Despite optimism that Penn State's President is leading the charge to be a more diversely inclusive campus community, a major concern is that President Barron's concept of "justice everywhere" does not include labor justice.

Throughout the many months that the Coalition of Graduate Employees has been working to give voice to Penn State's many graduate workers, President Barron and Penn State leadership continue to work to suppress any movement toward a healthier and more egalitarian experience for these members of our community, even going as far as taking legal action to prevent Penn State's graduate employees from even voting on whether or not to unionize.

Time and again President Barron has stood up for the cause of those in our community who are feeling marginalized because of the color of their skin, nationality, gender identity, or economic background. As President Barron continues his efforts to create a more inclusive "All In" Penn State, our hope is that he will ensure substantive representation of diverse voices on campus, including those of graduate student workers. Fostering a culture of substantive representation whereby the voices and rights of all of members are recognized will form a necessary component of an inclusive Penn State.

After all, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Respectfully signed,

Rev. Ben Wideman, Campus Minister for 3rd Way Collective
Rev. Dr. Sarah Q. Malone, Convener, Interfaith Initiative Centre County
Rev. Gregory A. Milinovich, Pastor, St. Paul's United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation
Diana W. Malcom, Campus Minister Westminster Presbyterian Fellowship
Rev. Michael Ozaki, Assoc. Pastor State College Presbyterian Church
Rev. Bret S. Myers, Interim Pastor at Faith UCC
Pastor Craig Rose, Howard United Methodist Church