Biden’s Win Welcomed By College Students and Staff in a Republican Town

By Artemis Allison

HOUGHTON, Mich. – On November 7th, when the media had called the election in favor of what seemed to be an assured Biden win, a Trump parade comprised of SUVs, trucks, and cars waving American flags as well as flags in support of President Trump and the Blue Lives Matter Movement. The calling of the election that had mixed calls from the Republican party to both “stop counting votes” and “count the votes” had no immediate effect on stopping Trump’s support by the local Houghton County area, but the college students in the area seem to mostly be glad in the President’s apparent defeat in the election.

“I’ve been ecstatic since Biden was declared the winner,” says Mars Long, a second-year scientific and technical communications major at Michigan Technological University, and their opinions are mirrored by Robby Rolling, a second-year graduate computer networking and systems administrations student, who said “my opinion on Biden winning the election is extremely happy, though I will take this win graciously because I know that there's still tension between either side.”

Students who have been glad that Biden has won, however, seems to have little to do with the fact that it was Biden who won and more on that it was specifically Trump who had lost. “[Trump]’s been an extremely divisive leader and has intentionally grown tensions for political gain; however, that doesn't mean I'm the biggest fan of Biden, either. I'll still have many concerns with the foreign policies, lack of robust public welfare, and general inequality of this country regardless of who's president,” says Cameron Whiteside, a second-year mechanical engineer. “He was never my first choice, but I feel he’s still a decent human being which is more than we’ve had the previous four years. I’m still nervous though for how the country can move past the last four years but I’m hopeful that this is a step in the right direction as a country,” agrees Mars.

The biggest concern that students and staff now have instead focuses on any potential action that the Trump campaign may take to overthrow the election’s results. “It's not a surprise that the Trump administration is negating the election results since Trump repeatedly primed his base to reject his loss as ‘rigged.’ But it is disturbing that the Justice Department and Republican leadership continue to aid and abet his disinformation campaign to save his presidency,” says Doctor Sue Collins of Michigan Tech’s humanities department, and electrical engineering graduate student Chaitanya shared a similar opinion: “The pessimistic part of me won't believe the results till he is actually sworn-in in January. This maybe is a side effect of my extremely limited faith in systems that are easily corrupted by money and power.”

Even with his concern, however, Chaitanya did remark on perhaps one of the better effects of this victory: “although, at the end of the day, this result surely is a ray of hope in the disaster that this year has been."