

From: [WebServices](#)
To: [Kristy Horkman](#)
Subject: Board of Trustees - Contact Us Online Submission
Date: Friday, October 9, 2020 6:20:10 PM

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To : khorkman@collin.edu

Contact Information

Name : Ralph Roberts

Organization : Retired

[REDACTED]

Address : 220 turner circle

Apt/Suite # :

City/Zip : granbury, 76048

Phone: 12147968092

Subject : Lora Burnett

Message :

I saw that she wrote about the Vice President "that he should keep his devil mouth closed". This was on a social media site. I was disgusted that a teacher in a public college would say such a thing. Everyone has opinions, but maybe she should keep hers to herself rather than publishing it. It doesn't look good for Collin College to have a teacher of history with such a hateful bias. I doubt if she can keep that hatred and bias out of her class. I certainly would not want to see young students exposed to what she must be teaching.

From: [WebServices](#)
To: [Kristy Horkman](#)
Subject: Board of Trustees - Contact Us Online Submission
Date: Friday, October 9, 2020 6:00:48 PM

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To : khorkman@collin.edu

Contact Information

Name : Conrad F Dauphinais

Organization :
[REDACTED]

Address : 730 wellhouse Dr

Apt/Suite # :

City/Zip : JACKSONVILLE, 32220

Phone: 9042075711

Subject : Lora Burnett

Message :

I would like to know whats going to be done about the language used against our VP? Rude and inappropriate language does not reflect well for your institution.

From: [WebServices](#)
To: [Kristy Horkman](#)
Subject: Board of Trustees - Contact Us Online Submission
Date: Sunday, October 11, 2020 8:45:48 AM

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To : khorkman@collin.edu

Contact Information

Name : Jon Elder

Organization :

[REDACTED]

Address :

Apt/Suite # :

City/Zip : ,

Phone:

Subject : Lora Burnett

Message :

Hello Board Members! I saw the unfortunate Jews about what Lora Burnett said in her social media. I'm not sure how she was hired at Collin College! As a family, our plan was to send each of our kids to Collin College but now have serious doubts. Anyone who says "Mike Pence is a lying son of a bitch" and has a "demon mouth" should be removed from your employment immediately. She is simply not fit to work at Collin College. There are many of us Collin County residents who have severe pause on sending our kids here now that we know there are ultra left liberal professors teaching here. Thanks for your time.

From: [WebServices](#)
To: [Kristy Horkman](#)
Subject: Board of Trustees - Contact Us Online Submission
Date: Saturday, October 10, 2020 7:58:28 PM

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To : khorkman@collin.edu

Contact Information

Name : Terri Black

Organization :

[REDACTED]

Address :

Apt/Suite # :

City/Zip : ,

Phone:

Subject : Lora Burnett

Message :

I would like to know your response to Lora Burnett's disparaging remarks about the Vice President of the United States.

From: [WebServices](#)
To: [Kristy Horkman](#)
Subject: Board of Trustees - Contact Us Online Submission
Date: Saturday, October 10, 2020 4:07:02 PM

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To : khorkman@collin.edu

Contact Information

Name : Carmen CAthey

Organization :

[REDACTED]

Address :

Apt/Suite # :

City/Zip : ,

Phone:

Subject : professor comments

Message :

As alumni of Collin College, I feel it is my responsibility to speak out about recent comments from professor L.D. Burnett. I believe professor Brunett's comment to be extremely unprofessional, bias, and simply not conducive to the higher education standards I always felt from all my professors at Collin college. I have always spoken out about what a great and amazing institution Collin College is and a believe someone with this level of unprofessionalism should not be part of this great college faculty. I had my children taken classes at Collin College due to the high standards of faculty and administration at this great institution. It is time to let L.D Burnett go. She is an embarrassment to this community and institution as well as an infit History professor. Thank you

From: [WebServices](#)
To: [Kristy Horkman](#)
Subject: Board of Trustees - Contact Us Online Submission
Date: Saturday, October 10, 2020 3:34:20 PM

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To : khorkman@collin.edu

Contact Information

Name : Angel Diaz
Organization : Tax payer in Collin County
[REDACTED]
Address : 2408 Oak Grove Dr
Apt/Suite # :
City/Zip : Plano, 75074
Phone: 214-562-3893

Subject : Twitter comments of LD Burnett on October 2010

Message :

With all due respect, I support freedom of speech and expression but I do not support my tax dollars going to pay salaries of professors spouting hate and saying derogatory comments about our current Vice-President of the United States. As a property owner that has to pay property taxes to support Collin College, I do not want my tax dollars funding far left or far right political ideologies. LD Burnett is entitled to her political views but her teachings are not balanced and unbiased. Since I cannot opt out of paying my taxes, I can always take legal action and make sure that my tax dollars not fund this type of hate. Texas is a right to work state. If i can be fired from any employer in Texas, so can she.

From: [WebServices](#)
To: [Kristy Horkman](#)
Subject: Board of Trustees - Contact Us Online Submission
Date: Saturday, October 10, 2020 2:02:35 PM

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To : khorkman@collin.edu

Contact Information

Name : KAREN

Organization :

[REDACTED]

Address :

Apt/Suite # :

City/Zip : ,

Phone:

Subject : Lora Burnett

Message :

As a fellow college professor, I am abhorred by the comments that your university's faculty member recently made regarding our country's vice-president. Even though academia is dominated by Democrats and liberal ideology, Ms. Burnett's actions were intentional, unprofessional, and quite disgusting - and should not be tolerated. Even if she apologizes, the damage has been done and the 'apology' will be perceived as a platitude used to keep her job and a way for the college to avoid further humiliation. I understand that you cannot censor what your employees say; however, it reflects poorly on your school - regardless of one's political party. Only a person who is hate-filled and irrational in how they display their opinions would react publically in such a manner and believe this type of 'discourse' as being acceptable. I implore you and your governing bodies to do what is right and not allow such deliberate hate speech to continue at your university. Show your constituents - students, employees, community, society - that this is unacceptable behavior and release her from the school. In reality, if she is not released, your constituents will perceive the school as condoning such behavior - regardless of whatever statements to the contrary may be made. Moreover, if I had a child entering college or if I were returning to college, I would not want them or myself subjected to such rhetoric. Just as we try to teach our children and students that actions and words have consequences, so must we be able to demonstrate that this applies to everyone and that no one should be given impunity, especially in such circumstances. Thank you. Karen

From: [WebServices](#)
To: [Kristy Horkman](#)
Subject: Board of Trustees - Contact Us Online Submission
Date: Saturday, October 10, 2020 12:46:32 PM

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To : khorkman@collin.edu

Contact Information

Name : Charles Turley

Organization :

[REDACTED]

Address : 11049 Millvale Ct

Apt/Suite # :

City/Zip : Frisco, 75035

Phone: 469-569-3239

Subject : Lora Burnett social media posts

Message :

I do not pay college taxes for you to allow your people to advance bias to our communities, children and grandchildren. Any form of political opinion by your people in social media is unacceptable. When you choose a career path in some professions (including academia) you give up the right to publically espouse your political views. If your institution does not publicly announce you will strictly enforce your own rules you will lose students to online courses which, in fact, many are already doing. This is not the only reason I will grant but it is one of them. You have an opportunity to build the reputation of your college and it would be in the best interest of everyone if you do. This is not New York or California, Texas is what it is for a reason driven by its indigenous citizens (Collin County in particular). I suggest if Ms. Burnett is of the liberal mindset than she needs to keep it to herself or go back there. Texas and Texans will NOT miss her.

From: [Whitney Christiansen](#)
To: [Neil Matkin](#); [Sherry Schumann](#); [Kim Davison](#); [Mike Dickson](#); [Toni Jenkins](#); [Steve Matthews](#); [Floyd Nickerson](#); [Monica Velazquez](#); [Kat Balch](#); [Andrew Campbell](#); [Jay Corwin](#); [Christopher Eyle](#); [Jon H. Hardesty](#); [Melissa Irby](#); [Scott Jenkins](#); [Abe Johnson](#); [Bill King](#); [Craig Leverette](#); [Tom Martin](#); [Mary McRae](#); [Mark Smith](#); [Ali Subhani](#); [Albert Tezeno](#); [Lisa Vasquez](#)
Cc: [Lora Burnett](#)
Subject: Collin College Treatment of Dr. LD Burnett
Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 10:55:52 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Dr. Matkin and Collin College Leadership:

I am writing to express not only my deep disappointment in your treatment of Collin College history professor Dr. L.D. Burnett, but also my horror at your abdication of the highest ideals of public education.

It is my understanding that while you claim that the “scholarship” of Burnett is “not in question,” you believe that her personal comments are “hateful, vile...ill-considered,” and “incendiary.”

You are gravely mistaken, and your response has damaged not only Burnett’s reputation (without cause,) but the reputation of higher education itself, and contributed to the forces that seek to dismantle it.

I cannot speak to Burnett’s professorial skills, as I have never been a student in her classroom. However, very recently I stumbled across her Twitter account as I searched for information regarding PhD prospects in intellectual history, and she was gracious enough to take time out of her very busy day to answer the eager and numerous questions I fired at her hours later. Only after I had first reached out to her did I realize that Burnett’s writing had been guiding my scholarship and pedagogy for several years. Only a few weeks prior to finding her on Twitter, I had unwittingly shared her blog post regarding how [Vice President Mike Pence deliberately chose to change the words of the Bible to equate Christianity with nationalism](#). In 2017, while I struggled to decide whether to continue teaching public high school or continue on to further graduate school, I was comforted and inspired by her [defense of the humanities in her article in the Chronicle of Higher Education](#). Later, after choosing to stay in the classroom, I struggled to know how to grade student work that clearly failed in scholarship, when marking it down would get me accused of bias due to the topic. A Google search for how to deal with those issues led me to Burnett’s blog for the first time, where she gifted me with [a framework for explaining to students the need to deal with counterarguments](#).

I had no idea how often Burnett’s hand had offered me comfort, guidance, and good pedagogy until today, when a brief Google search for the perfidious article regarding her Twitter usage connected these dots for me.

As an educator who spans the divide between the study of the arts, where many conflicting perspectives are welcomed, and history, where there is an expectation that there is, at the heart of any event, a real and concrete “truth,” I am eminently aware of how these two disciplines rub up against each other. Many institutions seek to deal with this friction by taking a “both sides-ism” tack, where it is assumed that if you allow both competing sides of a topic equal time and space to argue their point, the truth will eventually become clear, and it’s typically assumed to be “somewhere in the middle.”

This is Campus Reform and other conservative outlets’ ostensible pitch: they claim that liberal professors and educators are one radical side of the coin, and that they are only seeking equal coverage.

But truth doesn't take sides. If I have two apples, and one outlet says I have two apples, and one outlet says I have two oranges, the truth is not somewhere in the middle; I don't have one apple and one orange, I have two apples.

And Campus Reform and other outlets like it (such as Fox News, which picked up the story because it furthers their interest in dismantling higher education, as Burnett herself outlines in [this excellent Twitter thread](#).) aren't interested in truth. They claim that conservative students are discriminated against in higher education, but [even Republican-led studies show that not to be the case](#).

It is disingenuous for Campus Reform to attack Burnett for profanity when the President their journal supports uses expletives [more than any president in our history](#). This double standard becomes even more egregious when you realize that the profanity that Burnett has used is simply that which offends a specific religious group - the group of which she herself is a staunch member - and not the kind of slurs that conservatives tend to sling at marginalized groups of people (and at Burnett herself; just look at the many obscenities flung her way on her Twitter feed, going back years.) [Profanity is harmless, if annoying to certain religious populations; slurs are deeply discriminatory words that harm populations your college is charged to protect and uplift](#). And yet your criticism of Burnett's word choices implies that profanity is somehow worse - more hateful, more incendiary - than the policies and choices of an administration that seeks to disenfranchise minorities, stoke fear and nationalism, install white supremacist propaganda as revisionist history, dismantle protections for the vulnerable, and - as this case makes clear - censor the words of anyone who disagrees with them.

And you have played right into their hands.

There is a reason that higher education institutions are under attack by conservative organizations. They are accused of "liberalism" (as if that were an insult, to be open and broad-minded in thought!) and of "indoctrinating" our youth. But the truth is that students who attend higher education, if that institution is doing its job, learn to think critically, evaluate evidence, dig for facts, and are exposed to more varied viewpoints. When those things happen, truth flourishes, but the conservative ideology is not interested in truth; it is interested in control. It argues in bad faith that all discourse should be allowed so that they can gain a platform, and then uses this as a cover to argue that people like Burnett, who disagree with them, should be silenced.

You claim that Collin College has "a special obligation to remember that their public statements reflect on their unique roles." The nature of how much an employer should be able to control an employee's use of their personal social media on their own private time is a question for another day. But I will say that in terms of this statement, you can be assured that Dr. LD Burnett's public statements have, repeatedly over many years, reflected on her unique role. Her writing has been a light to me in dark times. She has guided me to making decisions that made me a better, more equitable, and more transparent teacher. She has given me comfort in knowing that the disciplines I loved were worth more than economic assessments could measure. She has pointed out dangerous and blasphemous statements from our leadership so that Americans can make more educated decisions about whether or not their leaders truly represent our best interests. And when I, a stranger from the internet, asked for guidance, she responded with generosity and kindness because that is her nature.

Collin College is incredibly lucky to have such an educator in their midst. When you failed to defend her, you not only harmed her reputation, but you have lent credence to ideas that seek to destroy the very institution that you lead. I urge you to repair this damage by calling back your initial response, publicly apologizing to Burnett, and dismissing any future attacks by bad faith "journalists" working to chip away at the very concept of truth. Doing so would provide Collin College with the opportunity to become a courageous leader and defender of the goals of higher education, carrying the banner for other institutions to follow.

After all, which would you rather be: the college credited with starting the movement that saved critical thinking? Or the one that capitulated to censorship and allowed itself to become irrelevant?

Do the right thing, for Burnett, for Collin College, for its students, and for all educators.

Sincerely,

Whitney S. Christiansen
Former public high school teacher
B.A., Centre College, Danville, KY
M.A., Humanities, University of Louisville
M.A., Arts Leadership, Colorado State University (2021)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Neil Matkin](#); [Kristy Horkman](#); [Sherry Schumann](#); [Steve Matthews](#); [Kim Davison](#); [Floyd Nickerson](#); [Monica Velazquez](#); [Toni Jenkins](#); [Carol Harber](#); [Donna Ludwig](#); sfletcher@co.collin.tx.us; cdwilliams@co.colliin.tx.us; sknapp@co.collin.tx.us; jwright@co.collin.tx.us; north_texas@cruz.senate.gov; Info@GregAbbott.com
Subject: Dr Lora Burnett Speaking on Behalf of Collin College
Date: Saturday, October 10, 2020 11:47:25 AM
Attachments: [1602344870597blob.jpg](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon,

Re: Dr Burnett's Twitter feed: <https://twitter.com/LDBurnett/status/1314920804551974913> - Please review!

From Dr. Burnett's response below as well as her open and blatant use of her title and place of employment in her online post, one can only assume that her views are in line with that of Collin College. What I can attest to with firm convictions, this will absolutely affect your future enrollment as well as the possibility of impacting your federal and state funding moving forward.

It appears that Dr. Burnett either has open support for her views at Collin College or has open disdain for Collin College leadership and your ability to curtail her divisive rhetoric. Either way, divisive politics has no place in government funded higher education.

Regards,
Eric Stockwell
Collin County Resident

Sample post from Dr Burnett's Twitter Account. **Note she continues to flaunt her place of employment!**

Inline image



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: webservices@collin.edu <webservices@collin.edu>

Sent: Saturday, October 17, 2020 12:51 PM

To: Kristy Horkman <khorkman@collin.edu>

Subject: Board of Trustees - Contact Us Online Submission

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To : khorkman@collin.edu

Contact Information

Name : Anna J. Clutterbuck-Cook

Organization :
[REDACTED]

Address :

Apt/Suite # :

City/Zip : ,

Phone:

Subject : In support of Dr. Lora Burnett

Message :

To the Board of Collin College: I am a historian and reference librarian, and I write today in support of Dr. Lora Burnett. I have been witness to the engineered social media attack against Dr. Burnett in recent weeks as it played out on Twitter, using a familiar reactionary script. A right-wing website, Campus Reform, shared Tweets critical of Vice President Pence from Dr. Burnett's social media timeline. Campus Reform acts as a feeder for Fox News, which duly picked up the story and handed Dr. Burnett, and other academics who had criticized Pence during the VP debate, to their audience who are primed to harass liberal faculty. The harassment follows a well-known pattern. It's targeted and intense; it's openly racist and sexist and typically aimed at faculty members working at publicly-funded institutions like yours. Harassment and threats can range verbal and written insults to threats of physical injury, sexual assault, and murder. As the AAUP has stated: "Governing boards of colleges and universities have a responsibility to defend academic freedom and institutional autonomy, including to protect institutions from undue public interference, by resisting calls for the dismissal of faculty members and by condemning their targeted harassment and intimidation." You must take a

public stand affirming Dr. Burnett's First Amendment rights and condemning those who attempt to intimidate her into silence -- and who intimidate you, as her employer, into attempting to silence her. Collin College owes its employees a clear and robust protocol for responding to the sudden onslaught of harassing communication directed at their employees and delivered via institutional email, voicemail, or in other work spaces. Employees should not have to bear the burden of managing these assaults themselves. Institutional resources should be made available to ensure that employees who become the target of these campaigns are able to continue their work without fear. I encourage the Board to seek out current best practices for responding to such attacks and implement clear policies and procedures to ensure the safety of those targeted. I sincerely hope that this incident will be an opportunity to renew your commitment to supporting Collin College faculty and staff. Students will receive the best education when professors are confident their workplace is committed to ensuring no harassment or assault will take place on your institutional watch.

Sincerely, Anna

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: webservices@collin.edu <webservices@collin.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 4:44 PM
To: Kristy Horkman <khorkman@collin.edu>
Subject: Board of Trustees - Contact Us Online Submission

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated.

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To : khorkman@collin.edu

Contact Information

Name : Justin Hart

Organization :

[REDACTED]

Address :

Apt/Suite # :

City/Zip : ,

Phone:

Subject : Dr. Lora Burnett

Message :

Below please find a link to an open letter to Dr. Matkin from members of the Texas Tech University Department of History regarding the situation involving Dr. Lora Burnett. We have also emailed this message to Dr. Matkin directly.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzpS53vwWufty9hhrFiboPfVeZhGQcBRf0_rdLyHuzQfvyhQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: "Hart, Justin" [REDACTED]
Date: October 16, 2020 at 4:40:08 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: <no subject>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Dr. Matkin,

Below please find a link to an open letter from members of the Texas Tech University Department of History in response to the situation involving Dr. Lora Burnett.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzpS53vwWufty9hhrFiboPfVeZhGQcBRf0_rdLyHuzQfvhQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Sincerely,

Justin Hart, PhD
President's Excellence in Teaching Professor
Associate Professor of History
Texas Tech University
2500 Broadway
Lubbock, TX 79409-1013



From: Mary Shomon [REDACTED]
Date: October 18, 2020 at 2:49:51 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Matkin:

Here we go again. The right-wing McCarthyesque smear organization, Campus Reform, is now targeting ANOTHER one of your history professors, Michael Phillips, for HIS First Amendment-protected speech on social media.

I recommend that, unlike your treatment of Professor Lora Burnett, you start proactively practicing the following statement:

"The views expressed by our professors on their personal social media accounts are their own. Collin College stands by our nation's First Amendment right to free speech, including speech by our faculty and staff."

THAT is what a leader would say. Public vilification like Lora Burnett was subjected to is what we would expect from water-carrying political toadies opposed to academic freedom and liberty.

It is truly perplexing that grouching by a targeted hit squad -- Campus Reform -- aided by propaganda outlet Fox News and an army of nearly illiterate bots, trolls, and MAGAts -- so easily influenced you to throw your esteemed professors under the bus simply for expressing their views. Might I remind you that their views are held by the MAJORITY in this nation, despite what you and your fellow Trump-lovers believe. You likely think you love the Constitution, but it's more than just the Second Amendment right to pack heat, you know. There's that pesky First Amendment, and it's first for a reason.

You're President of a College, not Propaganda Minister for Trump, Pence, and the GOP...

Perhaps it's intentional, but you're doing a stellar job making sure that anyone

with an iota of academic talent will avoid Collin College, and your students will suffer for it.

-- Mary Shomon

~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Mary Shomon

Patient Advocate, Author

New York Times Bestselling Author

<http://www.mary-shomon.com>

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Allan Tulchin [REDACTED]
Date: October 16, 2020 at 11:27:24 AM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: ACADEMIC FREEDOM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear President Matkin,

I write to say that your statement about LD Burnett is deeply troubling. An exceptional scholar and academic citizen, she has every right as an American to criticize -- even harshly -- our political leaders. Your statement suggests you have the right to police the statements of your college's staff and employees.

It is profoundly unethical. I call upon you to retract your statement and apologize to Dr. Burnett. It would be the American thing to do.

Yours,

Allan Tulchin, Ph.D.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Tom von Alten [REDACTED]
Date: October 20, 2020 at 6:09:12 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Collin College's commitment to academic freedom

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Dr. Matkin:

We're not acquainted, and in fact I had never heard of Collin College until L.D. Burnett introduced me to it with her piece in The Chronicle of Higher Education.

It's quite the introduction.

As it happens, I'm married to a woman with an Ed.D. who led a program and served on the faculty council at the University of Idaho some decades ago, so I'm a little familiar with how things in academia go, or at least how they used to go. Our current milieu is rather different than the 70s and 80s.

So, what do you have to say for yourself, and your institution? It seems like a response with the kind of breadth and specificity that Burnett supplied should be forthcoming. You could start with explaining what, exactly, that she wrote that you considered worthy of characterization as "hateful, vile, and ill-considered."

Looking forward to it.

In case it isn't clear, please tally my response to you in the "yes, you should uphold academic freedom" category, and "no, I don't think that should be decided by plebiscite" as well.

Cordially,

Tom von Alten
[REDACTED]

F

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Mashberg [REDACTED]
Date: October 16, 2020 at 12:22:00 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Cc: fire@thefire.org, admin@thefire.org, robert@thefire.org, media@thefire.org, greg@thefire.org
Subject: Community College censorship episode -- Prof. L.D. Burnett
Reply-To: Mashberg [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. H. Neil Matkin
President, Collin College
McKinney, Texas

Mr. Matkin,

If the below account is true, the school's behavior deserves scrutiny. As such, I am reporting you and Collin College to a trusted campus free speech organization that I support, The [FIRE](#).

https://www.chronicle.com/article/right-wing-trolls-attacked-me-my-administration-buckled?cid=gen_sign_in

While I hope this account involving Prof. Lora Burnett might be explainable, the facts and direct quotations she cites are very troubling.

Sincerely,

Tom Mashberg
617 799 0551
Journalist and free speech advocate

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Date: October 11, 2020 at 12:08:46 PM CDT
To: "Steven C." [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Disgusting and intolerant

Steve,

Her views do not reflect the college's position, the Board, or the administration.
This episode has my full attention.

Neil

On Oct 11, 2020, at 12:00 PM, Steven C.
[REDACTED] wrote:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

I sent a private email to point out the intolerance of a public tweet.
My email was from a private account. Now, your faculty member threatens me with my 1st amendment rights. Amazing. I responded to her professionally I might add. Do with this what you will.
However, if she comes after me professionally speaking, I shall do the same...

Steve

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>
Date: Sun, Oct 11, 2020 at 9:23 AM
Subject: Re: Disgusting and intolerant
To: Steven Cihomsky [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Steven,

Since you took the trouble to send your personal opinions to my work email account – an account which, as you will surely know, is subject to public records requests because it is attached to a publicly-funded educational institution – I thought I would return the courtesy of cc'ing your work account to make sure there's an official record of our correspondence in both directions.

I see that you are a graduate of the Rutgers history program. This has long been an outstanding program, and I count several of the history professors there among my colleagues and friends. You had the opportunity to study with James Livingston and Jackson Lears at the start of their careers – I hope you took advantage of it!

I'm curious: do you think your students who don't share your political views, or the parents in your school district who don't hold your political views, would be comfortable knowing that you spend your personal time sending hateful emails to women who hold different political views? Do you think I should write a news story, or send a tip to a news outlet, about what a local high school soccer coach does in his free time? Do you think that would be newsworthy?

To set your mind at ease, I can tell you: I don't think it would be newsworthy in the least. Even though you are a public employee, you have first amendment rights as a private citizen to express your views outside of your workplace. I can conclude nothing about you as a teacher based on this ill-tempered and partisan email, just as no one can conclude nothing about me as a teacher based on a snarky tweet. The difference between us, though, is that one of us sends irate unprofessional emails to perfect strangers, and one of us does not. Chalk it up to my typical liberal tolerance of differing views.

On a more personal note, I see that you are a committed Christian. I am as well, as you would know if you had taken the trouble to check my social media posts or do any research on who I am or what I stand for before firing off an email on a Fox News story that wasn't even an hour old. I'm a little surprised that a Rutgers graduate would be so careless about research. (As a Stanford graduate, I most certainly am not careless in my research.) In any case, once I realized I would

need to set up an auto-reply for out-of-system emails, I posted the following link, which may be of interest to you as a person of faith and an aspiring scholar of scripture.

<http://savedbyhistory.blogspot.com/2020/08/stars-and-stripes-and-blasphemy.html>

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However, should I receive any further harassing messages from you, I will be in touch with Shelly Arredondo as well as with Dr. Kevin Mendivil. It is one thing to exercise free speech in the public square – something I do all the time and something I am glad to see others do. It is another to show a pattern of hostile emails or messages to out-of-state strangers. That could be of concern to school administrators, particularly since coaches play such an important role in shaping student-athletes' character.

If you have any questions or concerns about this email, please feel free to contact my college president, Dr. Neal Matkin. You can reach him at nmatkin@collin.edu. I have not cc'ed him on this email to spare you any personal embarrassment, but I will certainly forward to him any further hostile emails from you.

I do wish you the best, both as a Christian and as a historian. You have simply made a mistake here. Please don't repeat it with someone else.

Sincerely

Dr. Lora Burnett

Professor of History

Collin College

From: Steven Cihomsky [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, October 9, 2020 at 5:43 PM
To: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>
Subject: Disgusting and intolerant

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

You are a sorry excuse for an educator. You give our profession a bad name. A typical hypocritical, hate-filled liberal - you preach tolerance and diversity and deny it to those who disagree with you. You are no different from the Nazis.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: "Steven C." [REDACTED]
Date: October 11, 2020 at 12:22:30 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Re: Disgusting and intolerant

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

I am willing to let this go. Ball is in her court.

On Sun, Oct 11, 2020 at 10:16 AM Steven C. [REDACTED] wrote:

i sent you my response to her from my private email...

On Sun, Oct 11, 2020 at 10:14 AM Steven C. [REDACTED] wrote:

please call me [REDACTED], thank u

On Sun, Oct 11, 2020 at 10:08 AM Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu> wrote:

Steve,

Her views do not reflect the college's position, the Board, or the administration. This episode has my full attention.

Neil

On Oct 11, 2020, at 12:00 PM, Steven C. [REDACTED] wrote:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

I sent a private email to point out the intolerance of a public tweet. My email was from a private account. Now, your faculty member threatens me with my 1st amendment rights.

Amazing. I responded to her professionally I might add. Do with this what you will. However, if she comes after me professionally speaking, I shall do the same...

Steve

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lora Burnett** <lburnett@collin.edu>

Date: Sun, Oct 11, 2020 at 9:23 AM

Subject: Re: Disgusting and intolerant

To: Steven Cihomsky [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Steven,

Since you took the trouble to send your personal opinions to my work email account – an account which, as you will surely know, is subject to public records requests because it is attached to a publicly-funded educational institution – I thought I would return the courtesy of cc'ing your work account to make sure there's an official record of our correspondence in both directions.

I see that you are a graduate of the Rutgers history program. This has long been an outstanding program, and I count several of the history professors there among my colleagues and friends. You had the opportunity to study with James Livingston and Jackson Lears at the start of their careers – I hope you took advantage of it!

I'm curious: do you think your students who don't share your political views, or the parents in your school district who don't hold your political views, would be comfortable knowing that you spend your personal time sending hateful emails to women who hold different political views? Do you think I should write a news story, or send a tip to a news outlet, about what a local high school soccer coach does in his free time? Do you think that would be newsworthy?

To set your mind at ease, I can tell you: I don't think it would

be newsworthy in the least. Even though you are a public employee, you have first amendment rights as a private citizen to express your views outside of your workplace. I can conclude nothing about you as a teacher based on this ill-tempered and partisan email, just as no one can conclude nothing about me as a teacher based on a snarky tweet. The difference between us, though, is that one of us sends irate unprofessional emails to perfect strangers, and one of us does not. Chalk it up to my typical liberal tolerance of differing views.

On a more personal note, I see that you are a committed Christian. I am as well, as you would know if you had taken the trouble to check my social media posts or do any research on who I am or what I stand for before firing off an email on a Fox News story that wasn't even an hour old. I'm a little surprised that a Rutgers graduate would be so careless about research. (As a Stanford graduate, I most certainly am not careless in my research.) In any case, once I realized I would need to set up an auto-reply for out-of-system emails, I posted the following link, which may be of interest to you as a person of faith and an aspiring scholar of scripture.

<http://savedbyhistory.blogspot.com/2020/08/stars-and-stripes-and-blasphemy.html>

I don't expect to hear back from you. Of course a sincere apology from you for your harassing email would be lovely, but it is not necessary. As a Christian, I freely forgive you.

However, should I receive any further harassing messages from you, I will be in touch with Shelly Arredondo as well as with Dr. Kevin Mendivil. It is one thing to exercise free speech in the public square – something I do all the time and something I am glad to see others do. It is another to show a pattern of hostile emails or messages to out-of-state strangers. That could be of concern to school administrators, particularly since coaches play such an important role in shaping student-athletes' character.

If you have any questions or concerns about this email, please

feel free to contact my college president, Dr. Neal Matkin. You can reach him at nmatkin@collin.edu. I have not cc'ed him on this email to spare you any personal embarrassment, but I will certainly forward to him any further hostile emails from you.

I do wish you the best, both as a Christian and as a historian. You have simply made a mistake here. Please don't repeat it with someone else.

Sincerely

Dr. Lora Burnett

Professor of History

Collin College

From: Steven Cihomsky [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, October 9, 2020 at 5:43 PM
To: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>
Subject: Disgusting and intolerant

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You are a sorry excuse for an educator. You give our profession a bad name. A typical hypocritical, hate-filled liberal - you preach tolerance and diversity and deny it to those who disagree with you. You are no different from the Nazis.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: "Steven C." [REDACTED]
Date: October 11, 2020 at 12:17:02 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Re: Disgusting and intolerant

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i sent you my response to her from my private email...

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Steve

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lora Burnett** <lburnett@collin.edu>

Date: Sun, Oct 11, 2020 at 9:23 AM

Subject: Re: Disgusting and intolerant

To: Steven Cihomsky [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Steven,

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To set your mind at ease, I can tell you: I don't think it would be newsworthy in the least. Even though you are a public employee, you have first amendment rights as a private citizen to express your views outside of your workplace. I can conclude nothing about you as a teacher based on this ill-tempered and partisan email, just as no one can conclude nothing about me as a teacher based on a snarky tweet. The difference between us, though, is

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On a more personal note, I see that you are a committed Christian. I am as well, as you would know if you had taken the trouble to check my social media posts or do any research on who I am or what I stand for before firing off an email on a Fox News story that wasn't even an hour old. I'm a little surprised that a Rutgers graduate would be so careless about research. (As a Stanford graduate, I most certainly am not careless in my research.) In any case, once I realized I would need to set up an auto-reply for out-of-system emails, I posted the following link, which may be of interest to you as a person of faith and an aspiring scholar of scripture.

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someone else.

Sincerely

Dr. Lora Burnett

Professor of History

Collin College

From: Steven Cihomsky [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, October 9, 2020 at 5:43 PM
To: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>
Subject: Disgusting and intolerant

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Steven Cihomsky [REDACTED]
Date: October 11, 2020 at 12:05:35 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Fw: Disgusting and intolerant

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Steven C. [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 4:54 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Disgusting and intolerant

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Steven C. [REDACTED]
Date: Sun, Oct 11, 2020 at 9:50 AM
Subject: Re: Disgusting and intolerant
To: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>

One, I do not preach my views to kids. Calling the VP a demon, and reposting a comment calling him a "scumbag" & a "SOB" is not something you should tweet out publicly. Your students will see that. We had a private conversation... And that is the difference... You tweeted your hatred and bias for the world to see. Two, I had enough respect to contact you privately, which is my 1st amendment right, as is your right to respond... Given the comments on your school's FB you are receiving a lot of blowback... It is very interesting how you justify yourself - you level serious hate at a VP because of his views... I exposed to you, your own intolerance and hatred... And yes, you are correct, my word choice was poor and for that I am sorry. You are right. However, your side wants to silence those you disagree with. I do not. Feel free to contact my superiors if you like. I shall return the favor if you do. I would prefer to call this a draw, but I am not intimidated by threats that violate my 1st amendment rights. Enjoy your

Sunday in God's service... Perhaps we both can learn...

On Sun, Oct 11, 2020 at 9:23 AM Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu> wrote:

Dear Steven,

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On a more personal note, I see that you are a committed Christian. I am as well, as you would know if you had taken the trouble to check my social media posts or do any research on who I am or what I stand for before firing off an email on a Fox News story that wasn't even an hour old. I'm a little surprised that a Rutgers graduate would be so careless about research. (As a Stanford graduate, I most certainly am not careless in my research.) In any case, once I realized I would need to set up an auto-reply for out-of-system emails, I posted the

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I do wish you the best, both as a Christian and as a historian. You have simply made a mistake here. Please don't repeat it with someone else.

Sincerely

Dr. Lora Burnett

Professor of History

Collin College

From: Steven Cihomsky [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, October 9, 2020 at 5:43 PM
To: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>
Subject: Disgusting and intolerant

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You are a sorry excuse for an educator. You give our profession a bad name. A typical hypocritical, hate-filled liberal - you preach tolerance and diversity and deny it to those who disagree with you. You are no different from the Nazis.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>
Date: October 10, 2020 at 8:25:22 AM CDT
To: Bolivar Shagnasty [REDACTED]
Cc: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Re: Disturbing social media post from Lora Burnett

Dear Burner Email Account,

Collin College IT can determine the IP address from which you sent this email so that the school, if it wishes, can judge for itself the probability of whether my tweet about Mike Pence has cost it even a single student. I only regret that you sent this email before I had a chance to set up my auto-reply for out-of-system emailers, so I'll include that below.

Also, Collin College is a public institution of higher education, and cannot fire me for expressing my sincerely held religious beliefs, which are protected under the first amendment. They also can't fire me for exercising my freedom of speech, also protected under the first amendment – and, I suppose, protected under the Streisand effect.

In any case, here is my autoreply message, with a link to an entire essay I wrote about Mike Pence on my personal website expressing my personal religious views. Please feel free to share it widely with anyone you know who may be interested in the history or the uses of biblical rhetoric in American politics, or who may be concerned as a Christian about sorting out the difference between Caesar and God.

—

Hello, friend! If you're writing to express your dismay about my views of Mike Pence, I have great news for you! I wrote an entire essay in August about Mike Pence's blasphemous misuse of scripture. You can find that here:

<http://savedbyhistory.blogspot.com/2020/08/stars-and-stripes-and-blasphemy.html>

Have a blessed day!

Dr. Lora Burnett
Professor of History
Collin College

From: Bolivar Shagnasty [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, October 10, 2020 at 12:43 AM
To: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>
Cc: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Disturbing social media post from Lora Burnett

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Lora Burnett,

Thank you for posting the following (scroll to the bottom of this email) most enlightening and informative public statement indicating an unprofessional state of mind and aggressive political activism. I doubt seriously that someone harboring such fanaticism would be capable of setting it aside upon entering a classroom/lecture hall. It has helped to save us a lot of time and potential expense.

Our granddaughter has been seriously considering attending Collin College next year. And since my wife and I will be paying for her education, I can assure you that she will no longer be considering your institution.

It is most useful to know that Collin College hires aggressive political activist professors. The VPOTUS is a "demon" with "...eye still bleeding?", really?!?

Socialist activist/anarchist professors on college campuses across Our Country are who have led the U.S. to the brink of socialism, into the sewer of identity politics, and given birth to the 'neo-intellectual/elitist', fascist cancel-culture along with their other hate-driven, suppression mechanisms.

The inadequacies that apparently are being struggled with and which appear to be the source of so much animosity, are likely unknown to any outsider. But what is knowable is that such a

tormented personality must certainly be driven to infect young and impressionable minds with the neuroses it seems have been developed as a result of unsuccessfully dealing with whatever grievances are being held against society at large.

Could someone so beset by imagined "demon"(s) be the one who should be concerned about potential adverse effects on job performance, not to mention personal well-being?

Such a public display of unprofessional, undisciplined and unstable behavior, in my opinion, is indicative of one, in such an agitated state of mind, who should not be allowed anywhere near a classroom of any kind, without at least some level of professional rehabilitation/sensitivity training. There should be warning labels required for such afflicted 'instructors'. I'm thinking of a registry like they have for child molesters entering an unsuspecting community. Until then, thorough research and watchdog organizations like Campus Reform, thank goodness for them, will have to do. I'll be sending them a healthy donation for their essential work on behalf of students and their adults across the nation

Hopefully with a bit more maturity and maybe some professional assistance, learning to control emotions and think more clearly and critically before committing embarrassing displays to oneself and one's employer will become possible.

Most sincerely,
Charles Etter

Collin College History Professor [Lora Burnett](#) also [posted](#) on Twitter, "The moderator needs to talk over Mike Pence until he shuts his little demon mouth up. #VPDebate" Burnett continued to refer to Pence as a demon, later [stating](#), "me: is Pence's eye still bleeding? Mr. B: Yeah. That's what happens when you're a demon.' #VPDebate" She also [shared](#) a tweet that read, "Mike Pence is a scumbag lying sonofab***h to talk about playing politics with lives."

The moderator needs to talk over Mike Pence until he shuts
his little demon mouth up. [#VPDebate](#)
— L.D. Burnett (@LDBurnett) [October 8, 2020](#)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Melanie Morgan <mmorgan@collin.edu>
Date: October 13, 2020 at 5:07:30 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Cc: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>
Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

Dr. Matkin:

I am writing to propose that you should immediately resign your position as president of Collin College.

You completely mis-handled this, as an academic, as the steward of your college community, and as an employer. Before condemning Professor Burnett's statements, you should have remembered the freedoms of speech that are unique to academe. You should have reached out privately to Professor Burnett, before sending an e-mail blast to the entire college community. You should have consulted with counsel before making public what should be a private matter between employee and employer. And lastly, you should have protected her, a member of our community, from the vile, profane and even violent threats she has received from the Fox News/right wing community.

Someone who is a member of our college community has been attacked. Instead of investigating, instead of defending her, you attacked her, too. For shame.

Melanie K. Morgan
Adjunct Professor, Family Law
Collin College
mmorgan@collin.edu

From: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 11:45 AM
To: All College Distribution <AllCollegeDistribution@collin.edu>

Subject: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

Friends,

Recently, one of our faculty members chose to post some political and other statements on her social media accounts. One of the posts referencing Vice President Pence was picked up by national media and has been in broad circulation among some of our college constituents. Emails, complaints to the Board, calls and contacts from legislators, and voicemails poured in over the weekend. Most of the emails are asking us to terminate the faculty member although a handful are encouraging us to uphold “academic freedom” and “free speech” or are writing to tell me that the faculty member in question is an amazing scholar.

We are not aware of an issue with academic freedom nor is the scholarship of the faculty member in question. The college’s execution of its personnel policies will not be played out in a public manner; however, we will address what has become an intense public issue by posting the following statement on our website. As always, regardless of our political or social viewpoints, my encouragement is to act with civility, patience, and forbearance. The statement follows:

[Start]

Collin College is aware of the hateful, vile and ill-considered Twitter posts by one of its faculty members. As a community, we cannot and will not ignore them. We deeply apologize for the offense her comments have created. The faculty member’s expressed views are not consistent with the values of Collin College, particularly our Core Values of dignity and respect. Further, the views were not conveyed in any manner we wish members of our faculty and staff to express themselves.

Free expression is a cherished right guaranteed by our Constitution, but that does not lessen our individual responsibility to protect such rights through our own care and consideration. At the very least, in our free exercise of expression, professionalism should dictate decorum rather than resorting to profanity.

While this instance of unfortunate speech may be protected, incendiary comments such as these do not best serve our community, nor do they advance any positive solution. Hate and profanity are never welcome, especially during this time when we, as Americans, are searching for the best path forward for our Nation. Such comments make it that much more difficult for all who hold diverse views to come together, as our country so desperately needs. Notably, these comments are a setback to the hard work and dedication of our campus community and all that Collin College has achieved this year.

Faculty members, as representatives of their profession and of our distinguished institution, have a special obligation to remember that their public statements reflect on their unique roles both in educating students and modeling behavior, as well as on the college that provides them with the opportunity to educate. Hateful and profane speech expressed in any forum is not how we should strive to conduct

ourselves.

In this challenging period, Collin College urges all to express themselves with grace, civility, and respect for others in a manner worthy of this Nation and the core values we share.

[End]

I hope all of you and your families are well during this trying period. Janyth and I are very well and have trips planned to see children and grandchildren before our Thanksgiving "Hotel Matkin" full house gathering!!!

Best regards,

Neil

H. Neil Matkin, Ed.D.
District President

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Peggy Douglas <pdouglas@collin.edu>
Date: October 16, 2020 at 9:08:24 AM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: RE: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

Dr. Matkin,

I am just a cashier here at Collin, but wanted to let you know that you are supported and admired in the way you have handled this situation.
I have worked at Collin College for over 13 years and can say it is truly a great place to work. You are an exceptional president, and I (along with many others) support and admire you.

Thank you for all you do.

From: Jonathan Allison
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:42 PM
To: Brad Hennigan <bhennigan@collin.edu>; Matthew Coulter <mcoulter@collin.edu>; Staci Swiney <sswiney@collin.edu>; Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>; Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>; Central Park Distribution List <CentralParkDistributionList@collin.edu>; Collin Higher Education Center Distribution List <CollinHigherEducationCenterDistributionList@collin.edu>; Courtyard Distribution List <CourtyardDistributionList@collin.edu>; Preston Ridge Distribution List <PrestonRidgeDistributionList@collin.edu>; Spring Creek Distribution List <SpringCreekDistributionList@collin.edu>; Technical Campus Distribution List <TechnicalCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>; Wylie Campus Distribution List <WylieCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>
Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

Brad,

NO. I reject this. You and I can both get thrown into the fire pit.

But it is my belief that you are wrong. Dr. Matkin has a job to do... a job you admitted you have no idea as to what it involves, as far as the juggling act. Can you imagine the gravity of that kind of use of voice? To have to placate everyone but never know??

How dare you turn a target on him.

If you want to post on social media, do it. But we all know that MySpace Facebook Twitter SpaceFace QAnon Crazyland or whatever are not independent of our professions if we LINK our professional accounts to them.

Attacking a leader is an easy thing to do.

Respecting a mission is much more difficult.

In responding to a national crisis, a leader has to lead, not wait five days and make a subjective midnight soap-box special.

Peace with volition, not vituperation,

Professor Allison

Jonathan Allison, M. F. A. Poetry
Professor of English

Collin County Community College District
Wylie Campus: 391 Country Club Road
Wylie, TX 75098

“A poet is, before anything else, a person who is passionately in love with language.” —W. H. Auden

From: Brad Hennigan <bhennigan@collin.edu>

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:27:40 PM

To: Matthew Coulter <mcoulter@collin.edu>; Staci Swiney <sswiney@collin.edu>; Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>; Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>; Central Park Distribution List <CentralParkDistributionList@collin.edu>; Collin Higher Education Center Distribution List <CollinHigherEducationCenterDistributionList@collin.edu>; Courtyard Distribution List <CourtyardDistributionList@collin.edu>; Preston Ridge Distribution List <PrestonRidgeDistributionList@collin.edu>; Spring Creek Distribution List <SpringCreekDistributionList@collin.edu>; Technical Campus Distribution List <TechnicalCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>; Wylie Campus Distribution List <WylieCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>

Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

Hello All,

I've been struggling with responding to this situation for several days now. You see, I have been on the receiving end of retaliation from a local University administration, which resulted in my being denied advancement in my career. I know for a fact, despite vociferous proclamations otherwise, that retaliation

happens, and because administrators tend to police themselves, it is rarely appropriately dealt with, at least in my experience.

But Dr. Lora Burnett's courageous and eloquent response to her treatment by our institution's administration in The Chronicle of Higher Education, [published today](#), reminded me that even though I am finally financially secure, even though I have family members who are currently depending on my income because they lost theirs due to Covid 19, and even though I am in fact terrified that speaking out about this will cause retaliation against me (remember, I've experienced it before in Higher Ed), none of those concerns are worth walking through life with the weight of knowing I did not make my voice heard in a situation wherein the very rights upon which our country was founded are being threatened.

It is not difficult to conclude that the purpose of Dr. Matkin's email to all faculty and staff was to make it clear that freedom of expression in one's personal social media such as that posted by Dr. Burnett will not be tolerated. Despite the colorful terms used to describe Dr. Burnett's tweet (vile, hateful, profane), her actual words were not actually any of those. Would some find it offensive? Probably. Will Collin College soon be combing through every employee's social media accounts, searching for posts that may raise some eyebrows? Or was this simply a one-time, ill-advised (to use Dr. Matkin's words) move to appease a political ideology fueled by a massive propaganda machine?

In short, I was shocked, and bitterly disappointed by Dr. Matkin's email publicly degrading one of our colleagues. I urge you all to [read Dr. Burnett's article](#), and speak out in support of her.

Best Regards,

Brad Hennigan
Instructional Designer, eCollin Learning Centers
Collin College, Plano Campus
L 257, ext. 5130
Direct Office Number: 972-881-5130
eLC Main Number: 972-881-5870

The fastest way to contact *any* eLC Staff:
972.881.5870 elc@collin.edu

Academic Continuity Resources for Faculty and Staff
[Faculty Readiness Checklist](#)

[Online Tools and Strategies to Keep Teaching](#)
[Office365 Resources for Faculty & Staff](#)

More faculty & staff resources available in [CougarWeb](#): On the Faculty and/or MyWorkplace tabs, click on eCollin Learning Centers.

From: Matthew Coulter <mcoulter@collin.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 6:15 PM
To: Staci Swiney <sswiney@collin.edu>; Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>; Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>; Allen ISD Distribution List <AllenISDDistributionList@collin.edu>; Central Park Distribution List <CentralParkDistributionList@collin.edu>; Collin Higher Education Center Distribution List <CollinHigherEducationCenterDistributionList@collin.edu>; Courtyard Distribution List <CourtyardDistributionList@collin.edu>; Preston Ridge Distribution List <PrestonRidgeDistributionList@collin.edu>; Spring Creek Distribution List <SpringCreekDistributionList@collin.edu>; Technical Campus Distribution List <TechnicalCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>; Wylie Campus Distribution List <WylieCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>
Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

To Whom It May Concern,

I knew nothing of this "controversy" until today, as I do not have a Twitter account and I do not spend my spare time perusing right-wing websites. From what I saw, the University of Wisconsin at Madison officials responded to similar questions about this matter concerning one of their professors with a reasonable response: "When students, faculty, and staff exercise their First Amendment rights to express opinions, they are speaking for themselves, not the university."

From: Staci Swiney <sswiney@collin.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 12:32 PM
To: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>; Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>; Allen ISD Distribution List <AllenISDDistributionList@collin.edu>; Central Park Distribution List <CentralParkDistributionList@collin.edu>; Collin Higher Education Center Distribution List <CollinHigherEducationCenterDistributionList@collin.edu>; Courtyard Distribution List <CourtyardDistributionList@collin.edu>; Preston Ridge Distribution List <PrestonRidgeDistributionList@collin.edu>; Spring Creek Distribution List <SpringCreekDistributionList@collin.edu>; Technical Campus Distribution List <TechnicalCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>; Wylie Campus Distribution List <WylieCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>
Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

Dear Mr Matkin,

While I greatly value my job at Collin College, I do find it important to be able to vocalize responses to emails I receive from you from the College. I am upset to see the wordage used in the email you sent out to faculty and staff. I had not heard of this controversy and therefore I had to go into twitter to see what had occurred. I was honestly shocked that you referred to these tweets as "vile". It is hard enough right now for college professors especially in subjects such as history to teach facts without being called out for our "anti-american propaganda" , the last we thing we need is for the College to side with those detractors. It frightening to think that we cannot express ourselves if we do not support the current regime in power. I have a family to feed and it terrifies me to speak up but I also feel it is important for you to have feedback from other professors. Our colleges, our professors, our facts are under attack. Please do not be so quick to add fuel to that fire.

Respectfully,
Staci L Swiney

From: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>

Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 11:54 AM

To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>; Allen ISD Distribution List <AllenISDDistributionList@collin.edu>; Central Park Distribution List <CentralParkDistributionList@collin.edu>; Collin Higher Education Center Distribution List <CollinHigherEducationCenterDistributionList@collin.edu>; Courtyard Distribution List <CourtyardDistributionList@collin.edu>; Preston Ridge Distribution List <PrestonRidgeDistributionList@collin.edu>; Spring Creek Distribution List <SpringCreekDistributionList@collin.edu>; Technical Campus Distribution List <TechnicalCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>; Wylie Campus Distribution List <WylieCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>

Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

Dear Dr. Matkin,

It would have been kind, or at least professional, to have communicated with me first before publicly calling any of my writing "vile and ill-considered."

Though you disavowed the intent to do so in this email—an email with scare-quotes around the ideas of academic freedom and free speech—by posting that statement you are, in effect, executing personnel policies in public.

I don't appreciate that, and it speaks more poorly of Collin College's reputation than anything

on my Twitter feed.

Dr. Lora Burnett
Professor of History
Collin College

From: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>

Date: Monday, October 12, 2020 at 11:45 AM

To: All College Distribution <AllCollegeDistribution@collin.edu>

Subject: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

Friends,

Recently, one of our faculty members chose to post some political and other statements on her social media accounts. One of the posts referencing Vice President Pence was picked up by national media and has been in broad circulation among some of our college constituents. Emails, complaints to the Board, calls and contacts from legislators, and voicemails poured in over the weekend. Most of the emails are asking us to terminate the faculty member although a handful are encouraging us to uphold “academic freedom” and “free speech” or are writing to tell me that the faculty member in question is an amazing scholar.

We are not aware of an issue with academic freedom nor is the scholarship of the faculty member in question. The college’s execution of its personnel policies will not be played out in a public manner; however, we will address what has become an intense public issue by posting the following statement on our website. As always, regardless of our political or social viewpoints, my encouragement is to act with civility, patience, and forbearance. The statement follows:

[Start]

Collin College is aware of the hateful, vile and ill-considered Twitter posts by one of its faculty members. As a community, we cannot and will not ignore them. We deeply apologize for the offense her comments have created. The faculty member’s expressed views are not consistent with the values of Collin College, particularly our Core Values of dignity and respect. Further, the views were not conveyed in any manner we wish members of our faculty and staff to express themselves.

Free expression is a cherished right guaranteed by our Constitution, but that does not lessen our individual responsibility to protect such rights through our own care and consideration. At the very least, in our free exercise of expression, professionalism should dictate decorum rather than resorting to profanity.

While this instance of unfortunate speech may be protected, incendiary comments such as these do not best serve our community, nor do they advance any positive solution. Hate and profanity are never welcome, especially during this time when we, as Americans, are searching for the best path forward for our Nation. Such comments make it that much more difficult for all who hold diverse views to come together, as our country so desperately needs. Notably, these comments are a setback to the hard

work and dedication of our campus community and all that Collin College has achieved this year.

Faculty members, as representatives of their profession and of our distinguished institution, have a special obligation to remember that their public statements reflect on their unique roles both in educating students and modeling behavior, as well as on the college that provides them with the opportunity to educate. Hateful and profane speech expressed in any forum is not how we should strive to conduct ourselves. In this challenging period, Collin College urges all to express themselves with grace, civility, and respect for others in a manner worthy of this Nation and the core values we share.

[End]

I hope all of you and your families are well during this trying period. Janyth and I are very well and have trips planned to see children and grandchildren before our Thanksgiving "Hotel Matkin" full house gathering!!!

Best regards,

Neil

H. Neil Matkin, Ed.D.
District President

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Victor Sotny <vsotny@collin.edu>
Date: October 16, 2020 at 2:58:06 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

This is such an unfortunate situation. Perhaps I can help put some perspective to all of this.

Early in my career, in the late 70's (before social media was even a thought), I wrote a complimentary letter to a company. I did so using my company's stationery. It was a Fortune 40 company at the time. My supervisor saw my letter because it was printed in the other company's newsletter, which was broadly distributed. He pulled me into his office and explained that I had complete freedom to speak for myself on my own time. But I did not have the authority to use company stationery for personal communications. He correctly noted that using that stationery implies that the company authorized and agreed with my comments, however complimentary they were. From that moment on, I realized that I had to keep my personal comments as just that. For the rest of my 40-year career (and 10 years at Collin) I carried that lesson with me and only spoke on behalf of my employers when I had the authority to do so. Perhaps our faculty should understand that their position as employees doesn't provide them a platform to speak on behalf of our College (however tangential that might appear) and their First Amendment Right has not been forfeited, but merely directed into their respective personal arenas.

I haven't read the troubled posting, but I suspect it falls into the category I've described. It's unfortunate that people are so entangled with politics and social media that they lose sight of when and where they should state any of their positions.

What's also troubling is the vitriol spewed by such highly entangled people. When they attack, it is completely acceptable. When those holding the opposite

point of view retaliate, their responses to that are screeching and ear-splitting (or maybe eye-splitting). This extreme polarization is devastating and completely unnecessary. Because most of the so-called information that is the basis of their entanglement is probably wrong. I've done class surveys at the start of each semester and consistently the students have little if any accuracy about the makeup of our population and in turn, much of their "knowledge" is equally wrong. I would suspect our faculty probably also suffers from such gross misinformation. The main point here is that most of this back and forth is wrong and misdirected. Those who wish to see us become divided have watched us do it to ourselves beyond anyone's wildest expectations.

The main culprit in all of this is the horrific invention known as social media. Repeated surveys have shown that wrong information is spread through the social media faster than the correct information. And the more extreme the statement the faster it is spread. I recently wrote a response to a neighborhood social media when the residents began fighting over the legitimacy of the concern about the pandemic:

"...And of course, when writing in such social media we lose all sense of proportionality and take everything as personal affronts which grow into raging disrespect towards us. But in reality, there is more subtlety which gets lost in the muddle of verbiage. In this instance a word such as "you" used in that one case was meant as a collective pronoun and not as a personal attack on any one individual. And so, it is too often that this kind of hyper over-reaction drives the verbal retaliation.

Meanwhile, the tribes immediately form, and the war of words begins with all sides "finding reasons " to pick up word weapons to continue verbally thrashing each other. These are poisonous tableaux that accomplish nothing other than mutual disdain.

So, after all this, where are we? Exactly in the same places we were before all this verbal carnage began. We only reinforce our preconceptions and change no minds. And perhaps we actually drive down our I.Q.'s because we learned nothing new while wasting time and further stiffening our intractable positions while sullyng our civilization.

Rome fell from within. Is this social media plague the start of our fall? Stick to facts. Think critically. Question everything while being open to actual facts, not opinions.

I know! What makes me so high and mighty to judge everyone? It's obvious; I

have access to this forum! To paraphrase a famous Greek - I write, therefore I'm right."

I hope this is useful in some way. Please feel free to use any of this in any manner you may find helpful.

From: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 11:45 AM
To: All College Distribution <AllCollegeDistribution@collin.edu>
Subject: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

Friends,

Recently, one of our faculty members chose to post some political and other statements on her social media accounts. One of the posts referencing Vice President Pence was picked up by national media and has been in broad circulation among some of our college constituents. Emails, complaints to the Board, calls and contacts from legislators, and voicemails poured in over the weekend. Most of the emails are asking us to terminate the faculty member although a handful are encouraging us to uphold "academic freedom" and "free speech" or are writing to tell me that the faculty member in question is an amazing scholar.

We are not aware of an issue with academic freedom nor is the scholarship of the faculty member in question. The college's execution of its personnel policies will not be played out in a public manner; however, we will address what has become an intense public issue by posting the following statement on our website. As always, regardless of our political or social viewpoints, my encouragement is to act with civility, patience, and forbearance. The statement follows:

[Start]

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Free expression is a cherished right guaranteed by our Constitution, but that does not lessen our individual responsibility to protect such rights through our own care and consideration. At the very least, in our free exercise of expression, professionalism should dictate decorum rather than resorting to profanity.

While this instance of unfortunate speech may be protected, incendiary comments such as these do not best serve our community, nor do they advance any positive solution. Hate and profanity are never welcome, especially during this time when we, as Americans, are searching for the best path forward for our Nation. Such comments make it that much more difficult for all who hold diverse views to

come together, as our country so desperately needs. Notably, these comments are a setback to the hard work and dedication of our campus community and all that Collin College has achieved this year.

Faculty members, as representatives of their profession and of our distinguished institution, have a special obligation to remember that their public statements reflect on their unique roles both in educating students and modeling behavior, as well as on the college that provides them with the opportunity to educate. Hateful and profane speech expressed in any forum is not how we should strive to conduct ourselves.

In this challenging period, Collin College urges all to express themselves with grace, civility, and respect for others in a manner worthy of this Nation and the core values we share.

[End]

I hope all of you and your families are well during this trying period. Janyth and I are very well and have trips planned to see children and grandchildren before our Thanksgiving "Hotel Matkin" full house gathering!!!

Best regards,

Neil

H. Neil Matkin, Ed.D.
District President

F

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: "Discenza, Nicole" [REDACTED]
Date: October 20, 2020 at 4:21:26 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>, Sherry Schumann
<sschumann@collin.edu>, Toni Jenkins <tjenkins@collin.edu>, Floyd Nickerson
<fnickerson@collin.edu>
Cc: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>, Michael Phillips
<mphillips@collin.edu>
Subject: Foster free speech and protect faculty

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Dr. Matkin, Dr. Schumann, Dr. Jenkins, and Mr. Nickerson:

I write with deep concern for free speech at Collin College. I have read the tweets by Drs. Phillips and Burnett, and it's quite clear they are done in their capacities as individuals. I am deeply disappointed that you gave in to contrived outrage and publicly apologized for tweets by a private citizen. Collin's original statement to Campus Reform, "While the college respects employees' rights to free speech, the opinions expressed were not made on behalf of Collin College," was the most appropriate response.

I ask that you support your faculty. I know Dr. Phillips has had death threats before. I am shocked that you instructed Dr. Burnett that she could use her college email to reply to emails to that account and should not copy in anyone else at Collins! These instructions are contrary to everything I have learned about handling threats and abuse as a faculty member myself. Your email to the entire campus community mentioning "the execution of...personnel policies" sends a very chilling message to all faculty.

I have read [the letter by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education to Collin](#). I ask you to follow your own stated policy on respecting the rights of faculty members to speak as citizens, to refuse prior restraint on faculty speech, and "to protect the faculty from harassment, censorship, or interference from outside groups and individuals." Uphold First Amendment rights at Collin and safeguard your faculty.

Sincerely,
Nicole Guenther Discenza

Dr. Nicole Guenther Discenza

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Professor and Undergraduate Director

Department of English

University of South Florida

4202 E. Fowler Avenue CPR 107

Tampa, Florida 33620-5550



F

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Matthew Pappas [REDACTED]
Date: October 18, 2020 at 7:11:46 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: I cordially invite you to remember that white supremacists hate you too

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

You want to hug up to conservatives, but white supremacists will put you up against the wall as soon as they possibly can.

F

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Alix Cooper [REDACTED]
Date: October 16, 2020 at 11:19:49 AM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: I'm extremely concerned about your treatment of Prof. Lora Burnett

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear President Matkin,

I'm emailing because I'm extremely concerned about your treatment of Prof. Lora Burnett. As a faculty member at another institution of higher education in the US, and someone who's in Prof. Burnett's field (history, though in my case my specialty is European history), I couldn't help but take notice when I read about the email you sent to the entire college community.

This email you sent to the campus community was, I believe, extremely unfair, focused entirely on condemning her for what you called her "profane" language on Twitter (you use this word repeatedly, though I always thought "profane" referred to "swear words" or four-letter words, which her statements were utterly free of!), while completely failing to condemn the thousands of foul-mouthed trolls who did indeed use *extremely* profane language (in the form of four-letter words etc.) to harass and abuse her. In my opinion, by doing this, you failed to uphold the high ideals which every college president should uphold, of fairly addressing conduct in an even-handed manner.

In other words, if people are attacking a faculty member at one's institution in a vastly disproportionate manner, taking the context of their words out of question (she was referring, in the heat of a debate, to the way the vice president's pink-eye made his eyes look, rather than simply insulting him for the sake of insulting him), I believe it to be your duty to discuss the situation in a way that will be genuinely fair and balanced. If you're discussing issues of civility, which seem to me to be very much in play here, I think you need to address the fact that the professor in question was targeted by thousands of trolls who hurled foul language at her much, much worse, than the language which she momentarily used to describe the physical appearance of the vice-president. I think that all members of a college community deserve to be treated fairly--whether faculty, staff, or students--and that your response was lacking in this basic fairness. While


I would probably not have used the (non-profane) language she did--I am extremely mild in temperament & avoid Twitter for all it's worth, even though there are all sorts of important academic conversations that seem to be taking place on it, which I am unfortunately missing out on, just because of my sense that it's the kind of public platform that can all too frequently lead to unpleasantness--I still believe that she is entitled to at least the recognition that she has been targeted and harassed in the worst kind of way, and that no faculty member deserves that kind of treatment.

I very much hope that you will reconsider what amounts to your support of the trolls harassing Prof. Burnett, and issue a public statement and/or email to the campus community making it clear that you do not tolerate or approve of harassment of anyone within the campus community.

I'm very sorry to have to write to you in this way; I would have hoped that, had we ever had any contact, it would have been under much more pleasant and less disturbing circumstances, such as for example a conference on pedagogy.

Sincerely,

Prof. Alix Cooper
History Department
SBS S-345
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, NY 11794-4348





From: "Szefel, Lisa A." [REDACTED]
Date: October 11, 2020 at 3:19:23 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: L.D. Burnett

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear President Matkin,

I write to you in support of L.D. Burnett, a truly gifted professor at Collins College. I have known Lora for nine years, when I served as Treasurer for the Society for U.S. Intellectual History and L.D. was still in the process of completing her dissertation but was already an accomplished author at the S-USIH blog. In executive team meetings, L.D. was always helpful, insightful, compassionate, and smart. She has given me advice on conference presentations and publishing and is by far one of the most popular attendees at the annual S-USIH conference. It is rare to find someone of her intellectual caliber who also embodies the most generous and admirable character traits.

I have followed her writing on the blog and, more recently, in the public sphere and have been impressed with her analysis of contemporary politics. Her dissertation on the canon wars of the 1980s brings much to bear on the divisive moment in which we find ourselves.

Professor Burnett has recently come under fire for an article and tweets in which she identifies problems and inaccuracies in the Trump administration. I agree with her interpretations and arguments and am surprised at the vehemence to which she has been subjected. She is not dogmatic, one-sided, or intolerant. Quite the opposite. Lora has written extensively about her approach to pedagogy--she knows the best textbooks, primary sources and sites, and is a patient mentor who cares about students' holistic development. In sum, I think Collins College is a better place for Professor Burnett's conscientious, on-point scholarship and publishing. No doubt fellow faculty members have been impressed by her dedication and contributions.

I hope you will consider this as you receive and read emails from an outraged, off-point mob of irate, intolerant individuals on the right who have little sense of proportion and precious little understanding of history.

Sincerely,

Lisa Szefel
Associate Professor
Department of History
Pacific University
Forest Grove, OR 97116

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Ryan Paige [REDACTED]
Date: October 19, 2020 at 11:22:48 AM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: LD Burnett and 'Campus Reform'

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dr. Matkin,

As a former Collin College student and a taxpaying resident of Collin County, I must say that I was stunned by your wholly inappropriate response to the manufactured controversy regarding L.D. Burnett and "Campus Reform."

I have long been an advocate for Collin College because of the level of education students receive at the school, but a college that only exists to parrot back students' own beliefs isn't an institution of learning at all. A college education is supposed to be challenging to one's beliefs, and if a student is so unsure of himself that merely hearing a different opinion will cause him to abandon all sense of himself, then I'm not sure such a student should be in college or in the world at all.

I had a number of professors throughout the years with whom I shared very little common ground politically, but those professors were often among the best I had. I left college knowing how to think critically, how to judge information and sources, and how to delve deeper into why I believe a certain way. I graduated a better person because of my education even if the majority of my beliefs ultimately stayed the same. Colleges and Universities aren't called "higher education" solely because they come after high school, the education is supposed to be elevated. It is its purpose in existing (I mean, I already took history and government and all that in high school. No reason to take them in college if I'm not supposed to get a deeper, critical view).

Threatening a professor with punishment for expressing an opinion (especially those expressed outside a classroom) as your response to the 'Campus Reform' manufactured controversy heavily implied is an affront to the institution you are charged with leading and to the very students you would claim to protect.

If you want professors who have no opinions and who only exist to reinforce pre-

existing student beliefs, then just buy some books on tape and stop pretending to be an institution of higher learning.

Sincerely,
Ryan Paige
214-924-2942
Wylie, TX

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Salena Brody <[REDACTED]>
Date: October 19, 2020 at 11:02:54 AM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Letter of support for faculty expressing private political speech
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dr. Neil Matkin
President, Collin College
3452 TX-399 Spur
McKinney, TX 75069

Dr. Matkin:

I recently became aware of Collin College's response to a faculty member's expression of speech on social media. As a Collin county resident and a former employee of Collin College (13 years of full-time employment, 2016 Outstanding Professor of the Year winner), I am invested in the reputation of the institution. I was incredibly dismayed to see your public response. Bowing down to right wing terrorists -- *this is what you should understand them to be given the harassment and threats of violence the faculty member is receiving* -- is not a "smart move" in the words of Collin's own PR. Failing to support and protect your employees does not befit an institution that boasts itself "a Best and Brightest Company" to work for. Your faculty deserve better than this.

Your actions have essentially given the green light for more right-wing groups to come after your employees who are expressing their own political speech as private citizens. There will now be others who will become targets because you have failed to stand up for them. I understand

this is already happening. To say this has a chilling effect on your employees is an understatement.

Legitimizing a right-wing site like "Campus Reform" sends a message to all of your employees about how little you value them and how easily you will buckle to right-wing extremism. **Please reverse course and show support for the rights of your employees to express political speech in their private lives.** Their views do not have to represent yours and it is clear to anyone that their views are their own. Express to your existing employees that you will support their expression of political speech in their private lives. Talk back to the right-wing extremists that being a "Best and Brightest Company" means that you value the safety of your employees. It would speak volumes to see you publicly change course, affirm the rights of your faculty, and let them know that you have their backs.

Buckling to public pressure is the wrong course of action and it hurts all of us associated with the college. I trust you will take this feedback in consideration.

~Salena Brody, Ph.D.

these views are mine alone and do not represent my employer

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: trash [REDACTED]
Date: October 19, 2020 at 11:53:43 AM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Lora Burnett

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

You and your campus's response regarding Lora Burnett are disheartening to say the least. I am disappointed in the cowardice shown by the leadership team in the face of harassment to one of your very own. I am embarrassed to be an alumni from Collin College. Have some backbone and support your own professors, there are incredible teachers at Collin and it's such a shame to see the district tarnished by a poor response.

Regards,

Former student

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Scott Kelly [REDACTED]
Date: October 11, 2020 at 8:35:05 AM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Cc: Kim Davison <kdavison@collin.edu>
Subject: Re: Lora Burnett unacceptable public comments disparaging VP Pence

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Neil,

Your response, unfortunately, instills little confidence that this will be addressed in any meaningful way.

If you are satisfied with the label of liberal indoctrination center rather than center for higher learning, then by all means, continue to permit this unbecoming behavior from your staff. But, know that you have lost a supporter and I will no longer vote in favor of ballot initiatives that support Collin College. Nor will I advocate youth enrollment in your facility.

It's truly a sad state of affairs we currently live it but it is long past time to take a stand against political bigotry in our public education system as evidenced in Mrs Burnett's recent comments.

Scott K.

On Oct 10, 2020, at 1:44 PM, Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu> wrote:

Scott,

Your commentary has unfortunate assumptions that diminish your

very serious concern. I am aware of this situation and will address it accordingly.

Best regards,

Neil

On Oct 10, 2020, at 12:56 PM, Scott Kelly
[REDACTED] wrote:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dr Matkin & Mrs Davison,

By now you've received countless phone calls and emails regarding the abhorrent comments and retweets on twitter by your staff member, Lora Burnett disparaging our countries sitting Vice President. She made national news embarrassing herself, Collin College and the community (of which I am a long time resident of). I am adding my extreme level of concern at the potential for Mrs Burnett's apparently extreme liberal views and toxic language and behavior reaching into her lectures.

I have it on good authority that another Collin resident and student dropped a Texas Government class due to blatant liberal bias - students were required to watch the DNC convention, as well as Joe Biden speeches and then were assigned papers on those speeches.

To say this behavior is unacceptable and unbecoming of educators in your system is an understatement. I cannot effectively express in words my dissatisfaction in the environment that you have allowed to foster at Collin College.

I am calling for immediate suspension of Mrs Burnett's teaching duties and a thorough investigation, not just into her abuse of the authority, but into the entire Collin College system. Also, I am calling for an investigation and review with changes to Collin College employees code of conduct. Once the investigation is started, I am also calling for both of your resignations as this abhorrent behavior is, more often than not, indicative of leadership.

Who am I to you? I am not a student and never was but I am a 20 year + resident (property owner) of and tax payer in Collin county (who actively votes) so my tax dollars fund your salaries and the Collin College system overall, which includes Mrs Burnett's salary. Further, I am a 20 year leader and adviser in a premier youth organization that has reaches locally, in the DFW area and Nationally, and I am in contact with hundreds of high school aged youth at any given event including in groups of 50 on a weekly basis. Up to now, I've strongly promoted your education system as an alternative to other expensive higher education institutions. Many of these youth have gone on to attend, hold leadership positions within your student government, and graduate from your system. I can no longer, in good faith, recommend your educational system as impartial and a place where students can receive a decent education without the risk of liberal indoctrination, which is truly unfortunate. Mrs Burnett, however, has forced the situation and exposed other blatantly liberally biased behavior in your ranks.

I plan to go public with these comments and recommendations, and look for other avenues to force much needed improvements in the currently flawed system you both lead.

Scott K.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Date: October 10, 2020 at 1:44:00 PM CDT
To: Scott Kelly [REDACTED]
Cc: Kim Davison <kdavison@collin.edu>
Subject: Re: Lora Burnett unacceptable public comments disparaging VP Pence

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Best regards,

Neil

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I plan to go public with these comments and recommendations, and

look for other avenues to force much needed improvements in the currently flawed system you both lead.

Scott K.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Kim Davison <kdavison@collin.edu>
Date: October 10, 2020 at 11:33:11 AM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Cc: Kristy Horkman <khorkman@collin.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Lora Burnett, Wylie Campus

Another one.

Best,

Kim Davison
Chief of Staff
Collin College
3452 Spur 399
McKinney, TX 75069
972-985-3781
Kdavison@collin.edu

From: Anna [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2020 11:32:03 AM
To: Kim Davison <kdavison@collin.edu>
Subject: Lora Burnett, Wylie Campus

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Lora Burnett made a comment on Twitter about the debate that got the attention of a national news outlet.

When contacted for comment, she listed a United Nations-worthy list of so-called students to show how inclusive she is.

Does she think that because she talks about her multi-cultural students she will be forgiven for calling Vice President Pence a demon mouth?

She goes on to assume her students can forgive her because she is anti-Marxism.

Seriously??

Lora Burnett's explanation smacks of liberal privilege.

Collin College employs her, so you get the backlash.

Shame, all around!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Karen Gaines [REDACTED]
Date: October 10, 2020 at 2:12:51 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>, "Jon H. Hardesty" <JHardesty@collin.edu>, Mary McRae <mmcrae@collin.edu>
Subject: Lora Burnett

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dr. Matkin, Dr. Hardesty, and Dr. McRae:

As a fellow college professor, I am abhorred by the comments that your university's faculty member recently made regarding our country's vice-president. Even though academia is dominated by Democrats and liberal ideology, Ms. Burnett's actions were intentional, unprofessional, and quite disgusting - and should not be tolerated. Even if she apologizes, the damage has been done and the 'apology' will be perceived as a platitude used to keep her job and a way for the college to avoid further humiliation.

I understand that you cannot censor what your employees say; however, it reflects poorly on your school - regardless of one's political party. Only a person who is hate-filled and irrational in how they display their opinions would react publically in such a manner and believe this type of 'discourse' as being acceptable.

I implore you and your governing bodies to do what is right and not allow such deliberate hate speech to continue at your university. Show your constituents - students, employees, community, society - that this is unacceptable behavior and release her from the school. In reality, if she is not released, your constituents will perceive the school as condoning such behavior - regardless of whatever statements to the contrary may be made. Moreover, if I had a child entering college or if I were returning to college, I would not want them or myself subjected to such rhetoric.

Just as we try to teach our children and students that actions and words have consequences, so must we be able to demonstrate that this applies to everyone and that no one should be given impunity, especially in such circumstances.

Thank you.

KG

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Christopher Schaefer [REDACTED]
Date: October 10, 2020 at 8:24:21 AM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: RE: Ms. L.D. Burnett

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Lora Burnett, a history professor at Collin College, tweeted that the moderator "needs to talk over Mike Pence until he shuts his little demon mouth up."

Despite the harsh criticism, Burnett said her political commentary has never interfered with her ability to teach in an unbiased way.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Neil Matkin](#)
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 8:08 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Ms. L.D. Burnett

Christopher,

You have my complete attention. Can you share the comments you referenced?

Thanks,

Neil

On Oct 9, 2020, at 6:58 PM, Christopher Schaefer

wrote:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the
sender and know the content is safe.

Mr. Matkin,

I read with horror your above professo's comments about our Vice
President of the United States of America. Just incredible and not anyone
I would want teaching my children. Please do something substantial.

Christopher Schaefer

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



Virus-free. www.avg.com



From: Cindy Steltzlen <clsteltzlen@collin.edu>
Date: October 17, 2020 at 1:59:01 AM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Platforms

Hi Neil,

I was out of the office Friday due to dr. appointments for me and my daughter, Chloe. I have read the ridiculous childish emails though and I just wanted to let you know that we as civil servants in higher education have a responsibility and duty to uphold no matter who we are or what we do; what we believe. We are on a platform and must remain neutral. I am appalled at the lack of professionalism and sensitivity to that. I back you to no end and 100%. When you are on this level of higher education you have a responsibility to uphold and that is to keep your personal views private and not involve your employer. All of us should uphold that and be responsible to that. Our personal views should be private and out of the public's view. We have a responsibility to do this as we have a platform to never influence an individual one way or another. Me and you on a private and professional level; I find all these emails very childish and wrong. You have been an amazing person and leader that this school has needed for a long time. You have been someone of understanding and with true compassion of education with so much respect from me and others in so many areas. I thank the Lord that I am blessed with my job and employer every day. If you ever need anyone in your corner I am here. Thank you for being so wonderful and an amazing Christian. I love who you are, and you keep being you!

Many Kind Blessings,

Cindy Steltzlen

Administrative Assistant
Academic Affairs & Workforce
Fine Arts/ Education Division
Collin College ~ Plano Campus ~ K-102



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: lrq412 [REDACTED]
Date: October 10, 2020 at 9:44:18 AM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Professor at your college

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Please read this article and see what your professor is saying in public.
She should not have a job.

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/college-professors-expletive-criticism-vp-debate>

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S20 Ultra 5G.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

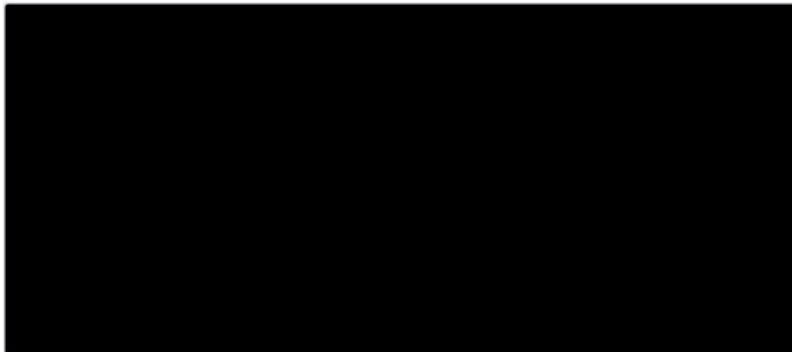
[REDACTED]

From: Ron & Delores Smith [REDACTED]
Date: October 10, 2020 at 9:26:16 AM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Professor Barnett's political comments

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

[College professors let loose profane criticism of Pence during VP debate](#)



College professors let loose profane criticism of Pence during VP debate

Paul Best

College professors targeted Mike Pence with a torrent of criticism on social media during Wednesday's vice presi...

Dear President Matkin:

As a 28 year tax payer in Collin County I feel it is unacceptable for a CC professor to use her platform for political comments such as this and I expect disciplinary actions from you and the Board of Trustees immediately!

Thanks, Ron Smith

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: James Grossman [REDACTED]
Date: October 16, 2020 at 12:49:14 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Cc: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Professor Lora Burnett

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear President Matkin,

I hope you received the message below that I sent on Monday. The American Historical Association is dismayed that instead of standing behind Professor Burnett's First Amendment rights you cast aspersions on her professionalism and commitment to the work of the college.

The AHA is the largest organization of professional historians in the world. We represent historians who teach and do research in all regions of the world, and across all of human history. I hope that we might receive a response from the college as to its commitment to the First Amendment rights of one of our members.

Sincerely,
Jim Grossman

James Grossman
Executive Director
American Historical Association
400 A St SE
Washington, DC 20003

I am currently teleworking. The best way to reach me is via email

[REDACTED]
[Twitter: @JimGrossmanAHA](#)

This message is intended only for the personal and confidential use of the designated recipient(s) named above. Please do not forward without permission.

My work hours may not be yours.
Please don't feel obligated to respond to my communications outside of your regular working day.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **James Grossman** [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Oct 12, 2020 at 4:28 PM
Subject: Professor Lora Burnett
To: <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Cc: <LBurnett@collin.edu>

Dear President Matkin,

Please find attached a letter from the American Historical Association regarding one of our members, Dr. Lora Burnett.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Jim Grossman

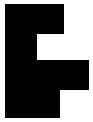
James Grossman
Executive Director
American Historical Association
400 A St SE
Washington, DC 20003

I am currently teleworking. The best way to reach me is via email

[REDACTED]
Twitter: [@JimGrossmanAHA](#)

This message is intended only for the personal and confidential use of the designated recipient(s) named above. Please do not forward without permission.

My work hours may not be yours.
Please don't feel obligated to respond to my communications outside of your regular working day.



From: Kim Davison <kdavison@collin.edu>
Date: October 10, 2020 at 10:31:41 AM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Cc: Kristy Horkman <khorkman@collin.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Professor

Neil,

I just received this email.

Best,

Kim Davison
Chief of Staff
Collin College
3452 Spur 399
McKinney, TX 75069
972-985-3781
Kdavison@collin.edu

From: lrq412 [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2020 9:45:58 AM
To: Kim Davison <kdavison@collin.edu>
Subject: Professor

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Please read this article and see what your professor is saying. She shouldn't have a job.

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/college-professors-expletive-criticism-vp-debate>

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S20 Ultra 5G.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: K Day [REDACTED]
Date: October 16, 2020 at 11:00:48 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Protect free speech

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Michael Phillips is a fantastic educator, scholar and celebrated author. He is being unfairly targeted by an ultra-right wing group. I hope that you will show 100% support for Dr Phillips for expressing his views. We are far too subject to this kind of reprehensible attack from the right.

Kevran Day

E [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: "Moye, Todd" [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Professor L.D. Burnett
Date: October 20, 2020 at 3:43:14 PM CDT
To: "rmatkin@collin.edu" <rmatkin@collin.edu>

CAUTION: This email is originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.
Dear President Matkin,

I am very concerned by the way you have responded to the online trolling campaign against one of Collin College's history professors, Dr. L. D. Burnett.

As a UNT professor I have a vested interest in making sure that Collin College students receive the best possible instruction in their history courses. Every year hundreds, perhaps thousands, of these students enroll at UNT after earning their A.A. degrees from your institution. Many of them end up in my classroom. (I have one exceptionally enthusiastic student this semester who has followed exactly this path. It is a delight to work with her.) I have also been lucky enough to collaborate with many colleagues at Collin College on a variety of projects, and to an individual I appreciate the professionalism, good cheer, and academic rigor they have brought to that work.

By now you must understand that Dr. Burnett's tweets have nothing to do with her teaching, which by all accounts is excellent. That the tweets attracted the attention of Campus Reform and Fox News has nothing to do with her teaching or employment; it has everything to do with the faux-outrage machine conservative political ideologues have created. I can understand that the this right-wing machine must have created a tsunami of emails that you felt pressure to respond to, but it is deeply regrettable that you took the outrage machine's charges at face value and that you did not instinctively defend your colleague, Dr. Burnett and your students—some of whom may become my students—deserve much better from you.

I hope you will reconsider these actions and offer your full support of Dr. Burnett, along with any other Collin professors whose exercise of their free speech rights should attract these bad-faith actors in the future.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
J. Todd Moye
Robert Professor of U.S. History
Director, UNT Oral History Program

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Date: October 10, 2020 at 5:26:34 PM CDT
To: Cindy [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Social Media Post by College Employee - Lora Burnett

Appreciate your email. I am looking into the issue.

On Oct 10, 2020, at 2:29 PM, Cindy [REDACTED] wrote:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir,

You are President of a very prestigious college. I was shocked to see the social media post by a member of the college staff this week.

Lora Burnett posted the following comment on social media stating that the VP debate moderator needs to “needs to talk over Mike Pence until he shuts his little demon mouth up.” Your employee also retweeted other offensive posts.

I find it hard to believe a professor would post, let alone think, such harmful words and thoughts. Having this professor interact with students is a threat to them without a doubt. It is obvious that the professor is not worthy of employment by your institution. I urge you to dismiss the professor immediately.

Thank you for your time.

C. Klepich

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Fred Kuglin [REDACTED]
Date: October 10, 2020 at 10:01:29 AM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Someone Needs Media and Etiquette Training

Neil, this is a very poor reflection on our wonderful school - calling Pence a demon in public inclusive of her role with Collin College.

What her personal opinions are should be kept separate from her professional role with Collin College. Aren't their guidelines regarding Media Training? Also, what an example of bad etiquette! Not sure what our Handbook for Faculty & Adjunct Faculty states for this behavior.

Just my opinion. No matter how she spins this, her comments tarnish Collin College's reputation in the marketplace.

Thanks for being our school's president.

Fred

"Lora Burnett, a history professor at Collin College, tweeted that the moderator "needs to talk over Mike Pence until he shuts his little demon mouth up." Despite the harsh criticism, Burnett said her political commentary has never interfered with her ability to teach in an unbiased way. "

"Throughout the entire time I have been on Twitter, my conservative students and liberal students, my Christian fundamentalist and Islamic fundamentalist students, my liberal Christian and liberal Islamic students, my Hindu students of

various political perspectives, and my atheist or agnostic or pagan students have always been comfortable in my classes, as my teaching evaluations from my past and current employers can attest," she told Fox News. "If I disappoint any students, it is probably my Leftist / Marxist students, since I tend to disagree with a Marxist approach to historical analysis."

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Susan M Reverby [REDACTED]
Date: October 11, 2020 at 1:15:59 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Cc: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>
Subject: Support for Professor Burnett

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Professor Matkin,

I am a "repurposed not retired" American historian. My mother was a community college professor for more than four decades (microbiology and medical technology) and then on the college's board of directors. I know how important community college education is, and why having committed and thoughtful professors teach there matter.

I have also followed Professor Burnett's work for some years now and know how much she has become a national treasure to historians for her wit, commitment to the best in history education, and skilled writing and teaching. I know how important having someone like her on your faculty means for your students and other educators.

Please know that there is enormous support for her in the history field across the political spectrum. She is the best.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Reverby

--

Susan M. Reverby, PhD
Repurposed not Retired

Pronouns (she,her, hers)

Marion Butler McLean Professor Emerita in the History of Ideas

Professor Emerita of Women's and Gender Studies

Wellesley College



Associate Editor, *Signs:Journal of Women in Culture and Society*,

<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/toc/signs/current>

Co-Conspirator for Justice: The Revolutionary Life of Dr. Alan Berkman, out

June 8th, <https://uncpress.org/book/9781469656250/co-conspirator-for-justice/>

F

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Michael Green [REDACTED]
Date: October 11, 2020 at 6:39:41 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Re: Supporting a Faculty Member

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear President Matkin:

You have heard, I am sure, from people questioning the right of one of your professors, Lora Burnett, to use her First Amendment guarantee of freedom of speech in her own forum, namely, Twitter. She is a friend, and I believe that Collin College is lucky to have her on the faculty. I also am an admirer of her work as a historian and in her outreach to the public on behalf of the historical profession. I want to express my support, but not just because she is my friend and not just for the other reasons I mentioned.

More than three years ago, on Facebook, I expressed an opinion of the president. Someone resented it and wrote a letter demanding my firing. He sent it to my dean and to a local television station. The station aired a story, which prompted death threats and emails and phone calls that can only be characterized as vile. A student tied to the group Turning Point USA saw this and sent it to his allies, who then put me on something called the Professor Watchlist. This prompted more threats and nastiness.

I weathered the storm. One reason I did was that the dean wrote back to the person offended by my expression of my opinion and said that I had a right to express that opinion. My university backed me all the way, including providing police protection when I was threatened. I am sure that you and Collin College will provide the same support to Professor Burnett, but I just wanted to offer my support.

Thank you.

Best wishes,
Michael Green,
Associate Professor of History,
UNLV

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: j40oaks [REDACTED]
Date: October 11, 2020 at 1:13:03 PM CDT
To: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>
Cc: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Re: WELLLLLLL..... NOW.....

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Ms. Burnett..

I would find your response comical if it weren't for the severity of it all and the COMPLETE blatant disrespect of the office of the VICE-PRESIDENT OF THIS COUNTRY AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. You believe when one disagrees with you they are either racist, demon, white winged blah blah blah. The indoctrination is clear ... You are incapable of recognizing how you have been indoctrinated, as you may be indoctrinating your students. This is how the extreme Liberal party works to silence anyone with a differing opinion. THIS IS MARXISM! I am a believer of the CONSTITUTION! I damn well will speak MY OPINION.... THE 1ST AMENDMENT GIVES YOU AND I THAT RIGHT! As a HISTORY PROF...YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS! I WILL NOT BE SILENCED AND INTIMIDATED!

Good day!

THE DAME JOTHE QUEEN OF TROLL

----- Original message -----

From: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>
Date: 10/10/20 10:48 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: j40oaks [REDACTED]
Cc: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Re: WELLLLLLL..... NOW.....

Dear Ms. Joanna Harkins of McKinney, TX,

Contrary to the final line of your message below, you seem to care a great deal what I think—enough to send this email to my work account, rather than to reach out to me on social media, where I engage “the American people” as a private citizen.

Since you live in Collin County, I’m sure you know how to reach out to the Collin College administration if you have any legitimate concerns. Just in case you have trouble finding those resources, I’m cc’ing the college president on this email. I will also gladly provide Dr. Matkin with an extensive list of other professors around the country to whom you have sent harassing emails; the earliest example I have found so far dates from 2017, but I will keep looking in case there’s something I’ve missed.

In the meantime, I respectfully request that you not send me any more emails, and, out of solidarity with the many professors whom you have harassed over the years, I ask you to consider not harassing them either.

Wishing you peace of mind,

Dr. Lora Burnett

Professor of History

Collin College

From: j40oaks [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, October 10, 2020 at 9:30 PM
To: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>
Subject: WELLLLLLL..... NOW.....

WARNING: The sender of this email could not be validated.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

WELL..... NOW..... AREN'T YOU A

**SPECIAL KIND OF STUPID!? YOU
ARE EXACTLY WHY HIGHER
EDUCATION SUCKS IN THIS
COUNTRY! YOU NEED TO SHUT
YOUR FUCKING DEMON MOUTH
AND GROW THE FUCK UP! YOU
LITTLE MILLENNIAL
FEMINAZIE SHIT FOR BRAINS
ARE THE SCUMBAG LYING SON
OF A BITCHES WHO DARE TO
THINK THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
GIVE A FLYING FUCK WHAT
YOU SAY, THINK OR FEEL!**

THE DAME JOTHE QUEEN OF TROLL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>
Date: October 11, 2020 at 1:28:55 PM CDT
To: j40oaks [REDACTED]
Cc: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Re: WELLLLLLL..... NOW.....

Dear Ms. Harkins,

You are of course welcome to express your political and personal views on any public forum.

However, you are not welcome to harass me. Collin College has legal obligations to me as their employee. However they choose to protect me from your harassment will no doubt be in compliance with all federal and state laws and will respect your rights as a citizen. I am sure the college IT department can find an easy technical solution for this.

In the meantime, I will mark your email address as "junk" and your emails will go to my spam folder and will be erased on a regular schedule without my having ever read them.

I am truly sorry that you are spending your 70s sending targeted harassment to professors and journalists. We are all like grass, here one day and gone the next. May you find joy and peace in whatever time you have left; I wish you many more years of good health and happiness.

Dr. Lora Burnett
Professor of History
Collin College - Plano Campus

(Sent from my iPhone)

From: j40oaks [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 1:12:51 PM
To: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>

Cc: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>

Subject: Re: WELLLLLLL..... NOW.....

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Ms. Burnett..

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Good day!

THE DAME JOTHE QUEEN OF TROLL

----- Original message -----

From: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>

Date: 10/10/20 10:48 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: j40oaks [REDACTED]

Cc: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>

Subject: Re: WELLLLLLL..... NOW.....

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Professor of History

Collin College

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Date: Saturday, October 10, 2020 at 9:30 PM
To: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>
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GIVE A FLYING FUCK WHAT
YOU SAY, THINK OR FEEL!**

THE DAME JOTHE QUEEN OF TROLL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>
Date: October 10, 2020 at 10:48:50 PM CDT
To: j40oaks [REDACTED]
Cc: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Re: WELLLLLLL..... NOW.....

Dear Ms. Joanna Harkins of McKinney, TX,

Contrary to the final line of your message below, you seem to care a great deal what I think—enough to send this email to my work account, rather than to reach out to me on social media, where I engage “the American people” as a private citizen.

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Professor of History
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OR FEEL!**

THE DAME JOTHE QUEEN OF TROLL

From: [Jonathan Allison](#)
To: [Staci Swiney](#); [Lora Burnett](#); [Neil Matkin](#); [Allen ISD Distribution List](#); [Central Park Distribution List](#); [Collin Higher Education Center Distribution List](#); [Courtyard Distribution List](#); [Preston Ridge Distribution List](#); [Spring Creek Distribution List](#); [Technical Campus Distribution List](#); [Wylie Campus Distribution List](#)
Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media
Date: Monday, October 12, 2020 6:13:26 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-eajip2mz.png](#)

To Those It May So Vociferously Concern:

Please do not attack our college's President, Neil Matkin, who I have seen some of the most eloquent prose from a leader (and his team) emerge in academia.

He handled this with grace, poise and valor, as always.

There is not partisanship to kindness, nor to wrongheadedness. Sometimes, kindness emanates from kind people and wrongheadedness from . . . well, those who cannot see the forest for those pesky ole trees.

As someone who sent out an accidental reply-all years ago regarding transgender bathroom rights, I get the need to spread the message.

But, unfortunately, what I learned is that advocacy is not always just the most eloquent REACTION to a perceived affront.

At times, advocacy waits patiently for the right time to speak its truth.

Just know that there are those of us who love both sides, both parties, all genders, and most importantly, now, all voices.

To be heard is essential. To be seen, crucial. To be respected, paramount.

[At least come up with a pseudonym if you are going to go ham online, right?

I mean, it's 2020. Even my Dad knows that (no offense, Dad).]

Peacefully

Professor Allison

Jonathan Allison, M.F.A. Poetry

Professor of English



Collin County Community College District

Wylie Campus: 391 Country Club Road

Wylie, TX 75098

“A poet is, before anything else, a person
who is passionately in love with language.” —W. H. Auden

Information Desk 972.378.8790

From: Staci Swiney <sswiney@collin.edu>

Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 12:32 PM

To: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>; Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>; Allen ISD Distribution List <AllenISDDistributionList@collin.edu>; Central Park Distribution List <CentralParkDistributionList@collin.edu>; Collin Higher Education Center Distribution List <CollinHigherEducationCenterDistributionList@collin.edu>; Courtyard Distribution List <CourtyardDistributionList@collin.edu>; Preston Ridge Distribution List <PrestonRidgeDistributionList@collin.edu>; Spring Creek Distribution List <SpringCreekDistributionList@collin.edu>; Technical Campus Distribution List <TechnicalCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>; Wylie Campus Distribution List <WylieCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>

Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

Dear Mr Matkin,

While I greatly value my job at Collin College, I do find it important to be able to vocalize responses to emails I receive from you from the College. I am upset to see the wordage used in the email you sent out to faculty and staff. I had not heard of this controversy and therefore I had to go into twitter to see what had occurred. I was honestly shocked that you referred to these tweets as "vile". It is hard enough right now for college professors especially in subjects such as history to teach facts without being called out for our "anti-american propaganda", the last we thing we need is for the College to side with those detractors. It frightening to think that we cannot express ourselves if we do not support the current regime in power. I have a family to feed and it terrifies me to speak up but I also feel it is important for you to have feedback from other professors. Our colleges, our professors, our facts are under attack. Please do not be so quick to add fuel to that fire.

Respectfully,
Staci L Swiney

From: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>

Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 11:54 AM

To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>; Allen ISD Distribution List <AllenISDDistributionList@collin.edu>; Central Park Distribution List <CentralParkDistributionList@collin.edu>; Collin Higher Education Center Distribution List <CollinHigherEducationCenterDistributionList@collin.edu>; Courtyard Distribution List <CourtyardDistributionList@collin.edu>; Preston Ridge Distribution List <PrestonRidgeDistributionList@collin.edu>; Spring Creek Distribution List

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Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

Dear Dr. Matkin,

It would have been kind, or at least professional, to have communicated with me first before publicly calling any of my writing “vile and ill-considered.”

Though you disavowed the intent to do so in this email—an email with scare-quotes around the ideas of academic freedom and free speech—by posting that statement you are, in effect, executing personnel policies in public.

I don’t appreciate that, and it speaks more poorly of Collin College’s reputation than anything on my Twitter feed.

Dr. Lora Burnett
Professor of History
Collin College

From: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>

Date: Monday, October 12, 2020 at 11:45 AM

To: All College Distribution <AllCollegeDistribution@collin.edu>

Subject: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

Friends,

Recently, one of our faculty members chose to post some political and other statements on her social media accounts. One of the posts referencing Vice President Pence was picked up by national media and has been in broad circulation among some of our college constituents. Emails, complaints to the Board, calls and contacts from legislators, and voicemails poured in over the weekend. Most of the emails are asking us to terminate the faculty member although a handful are encouraging us to uphold “academic freedom” and “free speech” or are writing to tell me that the faculty member in question is an amazing scholar.

We are not aware of an issue with academic freedom nor is the scholarship of the faculty member in question. The college’s execution of its personnel policies will not be played out in a public manner; however, we will address what has become an intense public issue by posting the following statement on our website. As always, regardless of our political or social viewpoints, my encouragement is to act with civility, patience, and forbearance. The statement follows:

[Start]

Collin College is aware of the hateful, vile and ill-considered Twitter posts by one of its faculty members. As a community, we cannot and will not ignore them. We deeply apologize for the offense her comments have created. The faculty member’s expressed views are not consistent with

the values of Collin College, particularly our Core Values of dignity and respect. Further, the views were not conveyed in any manner we wish members of our faculty and staff to express themselves. Free expression is a cherished right guaranteed by our Constitution, but that does not lessen our individual responsibility to protect such rights through our own care and consideration. At the very least, in our free exercise of expression, professionalism should dictate decorum rather than resorting to profanity.

While this instance of unfortunate speech may be protected, incendiary comments such as these do not best serve our community, nor do they advance any positive solution. Hate and profanity are never welcome, especially during this time when we, as Americans, are searching for the best path forward for our Nation. Such comments make it that much more difficult for all who hold diverse views to come together, as our country so desperately needs. Notably, these comments are a setback to the hard work and dedication of our campus community and all that Collin College has achieved this year.

Faculty members, as representatives of their profession and of our distinguished institution, have a special obligation to remember that their public statements reflect on their unique roles both in educating students and modeling behavior, as well as on the college that provides them with the opportunity to educate. Hateful and profane speech expressed in any forum is not how we should strive to conduct ourselves.

In this challenging period, Collin College urges all to express themselves with grace, civility, and respect for others in a manner worthy of this Nation and the core values we share.

[End]

I hope all of you and your families are well during this trying period. Janyth and I are very well and have trips planned to see children and grandchildren before our Thanksgiving "Hotel Matkin" full house gathering!!!

Best regards,

Neil

H. Neil Matkin, Ed.D.
District President

From: [Jonathan Allison](#)
To: [Brad Hennigan](#); [Matthew Coulter](#); [Staci Swiney](#); [Lora Burnett](#); [Neil Matkin](#); [Central Park Distribution List](#); [Collin Higher Education Center Distribution List](#); [Courtyard Distribution List](#); [Preston Ridge Distribution List](#); [Spring Creek Distribution List](#); [Technical Campus Distribution List](#); [Wylie Campus Distribution List](#)
Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media
Date: Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:42:38 PM

Brad,

NO. I reject this. You and I can both get thrown into the fire pit.

But it is my belief that you are wrong. Dr. Matkin has a job to do... a job you admitted you have no idea as to what it involves, as far as the juggling act. Can you imagine the gravity of that kind of use of voice? To have to placate everyone but never know??

How dare you turn a target on him.

If you want to post on social media, do it. But we all know that MySpace Facebook Twitter SpaceFace QAnon Crazyland or whatever are not independent of our professions if we LINK our professional accounts to them.

Attacking a leader is an easy thing to do.

Respecting a mission is much more difficult.

In responding to a national crisis, a leader has to lead, not wait five days and make a subjective midnight soap-box special.

Peace with volition, not vituperation,

Professor Allison

Jonathan Allison, M. F. A. Poetry
Professor of English

Collin County Community College District
Wylie Campus: 391 Country Club Road
Wylie, TX 75098

“A poet is, before anything else, a person who is passionately in love with language.” —W. H. Auden

From: Brad Hennigan <bhennigan@collin.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:27:40 PM
To: Matthew Coulter <mcoulter@collin.edu>; Staci Swiney <sswiney@collin.edu>; Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>; Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>; Central Park Distribution List <CentralParkDistributionList@collin.edu>; Collin Higher Education Center Distribution List <CollinHigherEducationCenterDistributionList@collin.edu>; Courtyard Distribution List <CourtyardDistributionList@collin.edu>; Preston Ridge Distribution List <PrestonRidgeDistributionList@collin.edu>; Spring Creek Distribution List

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<TechnicalCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>; Wylie Campus Distribution List
<WylieCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>

Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

Hello All,

I've been struggling with responding to this situation for several days now. You see, I have been on the receiving end of retaliation from a local University administration, which resulted in my being denied advancement in my career. I know for a fact, despite vociferous proclamations otherwise, that retaliation happens, and because administrators tend to police themselves, it is rarely appropriately dealt with, at least in my experience.

But Dr. Lora Burnett's courageous and eloquent response to her treatment by our institution's administration in The Chronicle of Higher Education, [published today](#), reminded me that even though I am finally financially secure, even though I have family members who are currently depending on my income because they lost theirs due to Covid 19, and even though I am in fact terrified that speaking out about this will cause retaliation against me (remember, I've experienced it before in Higher Ed), none of those concerns are worth walking through life with the weight of knowing I did not make my voice heard in a situation wherein the very rights upon which our country was founded are being threatened.

It is not difficult to conclude that the purpose of Dr. Matkin's email to all faculty and staff was to make it clear that freedom of expression in one's personal social media such as that posted by Dr. Burnett will not be tolerated. Despite the colorful terms used to describe Dr. Burnett's tweet (vile, hateful, profane), her actual words were not actually any of those. Would some find it offensive? Probably. Will Collin College soon be combing through every employee's social media accounts, searching for posts that may raise some eyebrows? Or was this simply a one-time, ill-advised (to use Dr. Matkin's words) move to appease a political ideology fueled by a massive propaganda machine?

In short, I was shocked, and bitterly disappointed by Dr. Matkin's email publicly degrading one of our colleagues. I urge you all to [read Dr. Burnett's article](#), and speak out in support of her.

Best Regards,

Brad Hennigan
Instructional Designer, eCollin Learning Centers
Collin College, Plano Campus
L 257, ext. 5130
Direct Office Number: 972-881-5130
eLC Main Number: 972-881-5870

The fastest way to contact *any* eLC Staff:
972.881.5870 elc@collin.edu

Academic Continuity Resources for Faculty and Staff

[Faculty Readiness Checklist](#)

[Online Tools and Strategies to Keep Teaching](#)

[Office365 Resources for Faculty & Staff](#)

More faculty & staff resources available in [CougarWeb](#): On the Faculty and/or MyWorkplace tabs, click on eCollin Learning Centers.

From: Matthew Coulter <mcoulter@collin.edu>

Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 6:15 PM

To: Staci Swiney <sswiney@collin.edu>; Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>; Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>; Allen ISD Distribution List <AllenISDDistributionList@collin.edu>; Central Park Distribution List <CentralParkDistributionList@collin.edu>; Collin Higher Education Center Distribution List <CollinHigherEducationCenterDistributionList@collin.edu>; Courtyard Distribution List <CourtyardDistributionList@collin.edu>; Preston Ridge Distribution List <PrestonRidgeDistributionList@collin.edu>; Spring Creek Distribution List <SpringCreekDistributionList@collin.edu>; Technical Campus Distribution List <TechnicalCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>; Wylie Campus Distribution List <WylieCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>

Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

To Whom It May Concern,

I knew nothing of this "controversy" until today, as I do not have a Twitter account and I do not spend my spare time perusing right-wing websites. From what I saw, the University of Wisconsin at Madison officials responded to similar questions about this matter concerning one of their professors with a reasonable response: "When students, faculty, and staff exercise their First Amendment rights to express opinions, they are speaking for themselves, not the university."

From: Staci Swiney <sswiney@collin.edu>

Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 12:32 PM

To: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>; Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>; Allen ISD Distribution List <AllenISDDistributionList@collin.edu>; Central Park Distribution List <CentralParkDistributionList@collin.edu>; Collin Higher Education Center Distribution List <CollinHigherEducationCenterDistributionList@collin.edu>; Courtyard Distribution List <CourtyardDistributionList@collin.edu>; Preston Ridge Distribution List

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Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

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Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 11:54 AM

To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>; Allen ISD Distribution List
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Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

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I don't appreciate that, and it speaks more poorly of Collin College's reputation than anything on my Twitter feed.

Dr. Lora Burnett
Professor of History
Collin College

From: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>

Date: Monday, October 12, 2020 at 11:45 AM

To: All College Distribution <AllCollegeDistribution@collin.edu>

Subject: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

Friends,

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[Start]

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While this instance of unfortunate speech may be protected, incendiary comments such as these do not best serve our community, nor do they advance any positive solution. Hate and profanity are never welcome, especially during this time when we, as Americans, are searching for the best path forward for our Nation. Such comments make it that much more difficult for all who hold diverse views to come together, as our country so desperately needs. Notably, these comments are a setback to the hard work and dedication of our campus community and all that Collin College has achieved this year.

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In this challenging period, Collin College urges all to express themselves with grace, civility, and respect for others in a manner worthy of this Nation and the core values we share.

[End]

I hope all of you and your families are well during this trying period. Janyth and I are very well and have trips planned to see children and grandchildren before our Thanksgiving "Hotel Matkin" full house gathering!!!

Best regards,

Neil

H. Neil Matkin, Ed.D.
District President



On Oct 16, 2020, at 8:48 AM, Lisa Vasquez <lvasquez@collin.edu> wrote:

FYI only.

Lisa-

Lisa Rena (Brittain) Vasquez, APR

Vice President of Advancement

Collin College

3452 Spur 399, McKinney, TX 75069

972.758.3894 office

972.758.1222 cell

lvasquez@collin.edu

<image001.jpg>

From: "L. Bailey McDaniel" [REDACTED]

Date: Friday, October 16, 2020 at 8:18 AM

To: Lisa Vasquez <lvasquez@collin.edu>, "Andrea J. Mersiovsky" <amersiovsky@collin.edu>

Subject: withdrawing decision to donate

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madame,

My niece is a recent graduate of Collin and had positive things to say about her experience there. My husband and I (both tenured professors, at different institutions) feel strongly about our responsibility to help support institutions of higher learning in this budget-slicing time amid public education, particularly regarding smaller, relatively newer schools such as yours.

After reading the recent piece in the *Chronicle* about the (mis)handling and nonsupport of History Professor L.D. Burnett, my family and I have decided to place our donation with another institution. We can't, in good conscience, support a university or its president who buckles too easily to the trolls and bullying actions of the right, declaring

a de facto war on free speech and the free exchange of ideas.

Regards,

Dr. L. Bailey McDaniel and Dr. Stephen Blair (Eastern Michigan University)

--

Dr. L. Bailey McDaniel
Associate Professor, English Department
Oakland University
522 O'Dowd Hall
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
[She/Her/Hers](#)



"White silence equals white consent." Black Lives Matter

From: [Jonathan Allison](#)
To: [Brad Hennigan](#); [Matthew Coulter](#); [Staci Swiney](#); [Lora Burnett](#); [Neil Matkin](#); [Central Park Distribution List](#); [Collin Higher Education Center Distribution List](#); [Courtyard Distribution List](#); [Preston Ridge Distribution List](#); [Spring Creek Distribution List](#); [Technical Campus Distribution List](#); [Wylie Campus Distribution List](#)
Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media
Date: Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:42:38 PM

Brad,

NO. I reject this. You and I can both get thrown into the fire pit.

But it is my belief that you are wrong. Dr. Matkin has a job to do... a job you admitted you have no idea as to what it involves, as far as the juggling act. Can you imagine the gravity of that kind of use of voice? To have to placate everyone but never know??

How dare you turn a target on him.

If you want to post on social media, do it. But we all know that MySpace Facebook Twitter SpaceFace QAnon Crazyland or whatever are not independent of our professions if we LINK our professional accounts to them.

Attacking a leader is an easy thing to do.

Respecting a mission is much more difficult.

In responding to a national crisis, a leader has to lead, not wait five days and make a subjective midnight soap-box special.

Peace with volition, not vituperation,

Professor Allison

Jonathan Allison, M. F. A. Poetry
Professor of English

Collin County Community College District
Wylie Campus: 391 Country Club Road
Wylie, TX 75098

“A poet is, before anything else, a person who is passionately in love with language.” —W. H. Auden

From: Brad Hennigan <bhennigan@collin.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:27:40 PM
To: Matthew Coulter <mcoulter@collin.edu>; Staci Swiney <sswiney@collin.edu>; Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>; Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>; Central Park Distribution List <CentralParkDistributionList@collin.edu>; Collin Higher Education Center Distribution List <CollinHigherEducationCenterDistributionList@collin.edu>; Courtyard Distribution List <CourtyardDistributionList@collin.edu>; Preston Ridge Distribution List <PrestonRidgeDistributionList@collin.edu>; Spring Creek Distribution List

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<TechnicalCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>; Wylie Campus Distribution List
<WylieCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>

Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

Hello All,

I've been struggling with responding to this situation for several days now. You see, I have been on the receiving end of retaliation from a local University administration, which resulted in my being denied advancement in my career. I know for a fact, despite vociferous proclamations otherwise, that retaliation happens, and because administrators tend to police themselves, it is rarely appropriately dealt with, at least in my experience.

But Dr. Lora Burnett's courageous and eloquent response to her treatment by our institution's administration in The Chronicle of Higher Education, [published today](#), reminded me that even though I am finally financially secure, even though I have family members who are currently depending on my income because they lost theirs due to Covid 19, and even though I am in fact terrified that speaking out about this will cause retaliation against me (remember, I've experienced it before in Higher Ed), none of those concerns are worth walking through life with the weight of knowing I did not make my voice heard in a situation wherein the very rights upon which our country was founded are being threatened.

It is not difficult to conclude that the purpose of Dr. Matkin's email to all faculty and staff was to make it clear that freedom of expression in one's personal social media such as that posted by Dr. Burnett will not be tolerated. Despite the colorful terms used to describe Dr. Burnett's tweet (vile, hateful, profane), her actual words were not actually any of those. Would some find it offensive? Probably. Will Collin College soon be combing through every employee's social media accounts, searching for posts that may raise some eyebrows? Or was this simply a one-time, ill-advised (to use Dr. Matkin's words) move to appease a political ideology fueled by a massive propaganda machine?

In short, I was shocked, and bitterly disappointed by Dr. Matkin's email publicly degrading one of our colleagues. I urge you all to [read Dr. Burnett's article](#), and speak out in support of her.

Best Regards,

Brad Hennigan
Instructional Designer, eCollin Learning Centers
Collin College, Plano Campus
L 257, ext. 5130
Direct Office Number: 972-881-5130
eLC Main Number: 972-881-5870

The fastest way to contact *any* eLC Staff:
972.881.5870 elc@collin.edu

Academic Continuity Resources for Faculty and Staff

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[Online Tools and Strategies to Keep Teaching](#)

[Office365 Resources for Faculty & Staff](#)

More faculty & staff resources available in [CougarWeb](#): On the Faculty and/or MyWorkplace tabs, click on eCollin Learning Centers.

From: Matthew Coulter <mcoulter@collin.edu>

Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 6:15 PM

To: Staci Swiney <sswiney@collin.edu>; Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>; Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>; Allen ISD Distribution List <AllenISDDistributionList@collin.edu>; Central Park Distribution List <CentralParkDistributionList@collin.edu>; Collin Higher Education Center Distribution List <CollinHigherEducationCenterDistributionList@collin.edu>; Courtyard Distribution List <CourtyardDistributionList@collin.edu>; Preston Ridge Distribution List <PrestonRidgeDistributionList@collin.edu>; Spring Creek Distribution List <SpringCreekDistributionList@collin.edu>; Technical Campus Distribution List <TechnicalCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>; Wylie Campus Distribution List <WylieCampusDistributionList@collin.edu>

Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

To Whom It May Concern,

I knew nothing of this "controversy" until today, as I do not have a Twitter account and I do not spend my spare time perusing right-wing websites. From what I saw, the University of Wisconsin at Madison officials responded to similar questions about this matter concerning one of their professors with a reasonable response: "When students, faculty, and staff exercise their First Amendment rights to express opinions, they are speaking for themselves, not the university."

From: Staci Swiney <sswiney@collin.edu>

Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 12:32 PM

To: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>; Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>; Allen ISD Distribution List <AllenISDDistributionList@collin.edu>; Central Park Distribution List <CentralParkDistributionList@collin.edu>; Collin Higher Education Center Distribution List <CollinHigherEducationCenterDistributionList@collin.edu>; Courtyard Distribution List <CourtyardDistributionList@collin.edu>; Preston Ridge Distribution List

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Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

Dear Mr Matkin,

While I greatly value my job at Collin College, I do find it important to be able to vocalize responses to emails I receive from you from the College. I am upset to see the wordage used in the email you sent out to faculty and staff. I had not heard of this controversy and therefore I had to go into twitter to see what had occurred. I was honestly shocked that you referred to these tweets as "vile". It is hard enough right now for college professors especially in subjects such as history to teach facts without being called out for our "anti-american propaganda", the last thing we need is for the College to side with those detractors. It is frightening to think that we cannot express ourselves if we do not support the current regime in power. I have a family to feed and it terrifies me to speak up but I also feel it is important for you to have feedback from other professors. Our colleges, our professors, our facts are under attack. Please do not be so quick to add fuel to that fire.

Respectfully,
Staci L Swiney

From: Lora Burnett <lburnett@collin.edu>

Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 11:54 AM

To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>; Allen ISD Distribution List
<AllenISDDistributionList@collin.edu>; Central Park Distribution List
<CentralParkDistributionList@collin.edu>; Collin Higher Education Center Distribution List
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Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

Dear Dr. Matkin,

It would have been kind, or at least professional, to have communicated with me first before publicly calling any of my writing "vile and ill-considered."

Though you disavowed the intent to do so in this email—an email with scare-quotes around the ideas of academic freedom and free speech—by posting that statement you are, in effect, executing personnel policies in public.

I don't appreciate that, and it speaks more poorly of Collin College's reputation than anything on my Twitter feed.

Dr. Lora Burnett
Professor of History
Collin College

From: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>

Date: Monday, October 12, 2020 at 11:45 AM

To: All College Distribution <AllCollegeDistribution@collin.edu>

Subject: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media

Friends,

Recently, one of our faculty members chose to post some political and other statements on her social media accounts. One of the posts referencing Vice President Pence was picked up by national media and has been in broad circulation among some of our college constituents. Emails, complaints to the Board, calls and contacts from legislators, and voicemails poured in over the weekend. Most of the emails are asking us to terminate the faculty member although a handful are encouraging us to uphold "academic freedom" and "free speech" or are writing to tell me that the faculty member in question is an amazing scholar.

We are not aware of an issue with academic freedom nor is the scholarship of the faculty member in question. The college's execution of its personnel policies will not be played out in a public manner; however, we will address what has become an intense public issue by posting the following statement on our website. As always, regardless of our political or social viewpoints, my encouragement is to act with civility, patience, and forbearance. The statement follows:

[Start]

Collin College is aware of the hateful, vile and ill-considered Twitter posts by one of its faculty members. As a community, we cannot and will not ignore them. We deeply apologize for the offense her comments have created. The faculty member's expressed views are not consistent with the values of Collin College, particularly our Core Values of dignity and respect. Further, the views were not conveyed in any manner we wish members of our faculty and staff to express themselves. Free expression is a cherished right guaranteed by our Constitution, but that does not lessen our individual responsibility to protect such rights through our own care and consideration. At the very least, in our free exercise of expression, professionalism should dictate decorum rather than resorting to profanity.

While this instance of unfortunate speech may be protected, incendiary comments such as these do not best serve our community, nor do they advance any positive solution. Hate and profanity are never welcome, especially during this time when we, as Americans, are searching for the best path forward for our Nation. Such comments make it that much more difficult for all who hold diverse views to come together, as our country so desperately needs. Notably, these comments are a setback to the hard work and dedication of our campus community and all that Collin College has achieved this year.

Faculty members, as representatives of their profession and of our distinguished institution, have a special obligation to remember that their public statements reflect on their unique roles both in educating students and modeling behavior, as well as on the college that provides them with the opportunity to educate. Hateful and profane speech expressed in any forum is not how we should strive to conduct ourselves.

In this challenging period, Collin College urges all to express themselves with grace, civility, and respect for others in a manner worthy of this Nation and the core values we share.

[End]

I hope all of you and your families are well during this trying period. Janyth and I are very well and have trips planned to see children and grandchildren before our Thanksgiving "Hotel Matkin" full house gathering!!!

Best regards,

Neil

H. Neil Matkin, Ed.D.
District President

From: [Brad Hennigan](#)
To: [Matthew Coulter](#); [Staci Swiney](#); [Lora Burnett](#); [Neil Matkin](#); [Central Park Distribution List](#); [Collin Higher Education Center Distribution List](#); [Courtyard Distribution List](#); [Preston Ridge Distribution List](#); [Spring Creek Distribution List](#); [Technical Campus Distribution List](#); [Wylie Campus Distribution List](#)
Subject: Re: Faculty Member Comments on Social Media
Date: Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:28:11 PM

Hello All,

I've been struggling with responding to this situation for several days now. You see, I have been on the receiving end of retaliation from a local University administration, which resulted in my being denied advancement in my career. I know for a fact, despite vociferous proclamations otherwise, that retaliation happens, and because administrators tend to police themselves, it is rarely appropriately dealt with, at least in my experience.

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Collin College

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[End]

I hope all of you and your families are well during this trying period. Janyth and I are very well and have trips planned to see children and grandchildren before our Thanksgiving "Hotel Matkin" full house gathering!!!

Best regards,

Neil

H. Neil Matkin, Ed.D.
District President

From: Betsy Brody <bbrody@collin.edu>
Subject: Another perspective
Date: October 22, 2020 at 3:18:43 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>

Dr. Matkin,

I hope this email finds you well. I am sure you have received many messages from my Collin colleagues over recent days. While I am not sure what my colleagues may have communicated to you, I would like to respectfully offer my perspective as a long-serving member of Collin's faculty.

Anyone who knows me knows that I am not a flame-thrower or a pot-stirrer by nature. I spend most of my energy trying my best every day to be a good person and to do my job. My job, however, is to teach American Government and Texas Government to the students of Collin College. That involves engaging with my students on controversial topics every single day. In order to fulfill the student learning outcomes mandated for my classes by the State of Texas, it is required that my students and I grapple with complicated topics like civil rights, civil liberties, domestic policy, and foreign policy every semester. That's what they signed up for and that's what Collin College pays me to do.

Invariably, my students and I have spirited discussions about complicated topics. Sharing different perspectives and learning from each other is one of the most beautiful parts about being in the classroom. In the course of doing my job, I have felt, on several occasions, that I was not safe. Despite working very hard to build a culture of respect and civility within my classroom and between my students, on occasion, there have been students who bristled at having their worldviews challenged or at learning facts that made them uncomfortable. In those moments, I have had to defuse difficult situations while continuing to do my job-that is teaching the course concepts *even if* they make some students uncomfortable. I've always felt that it's my responsibility to faithfully teach those concepts, not to tailor the course to the worldview of the most vocal or most aggressive student.

So, I was stunned and saddened when I saw your campus-wide email message about one of my colleague's social media posts. Though that situation involved the First Amendment rights of a faculty member speaking as a private citizen, your response has some serious implications for the safety and security of all faculty as we teach our classes. Specifically, I feel less safe knowing that the most vocal or aggressive student in my class might take this episode as a green light to be more aggressive or threatening when faced with course concepts that make them feel uncomfortable and challenge their worldviews. I think I would be doing all of my students a disservice if I modified my courses to be pleasing to particular points of view. If I did that, I also would not be doing my job.

Sincerely,

Betsy Brody

Betsy Brody, Ph.D.
Professor of Political Science
Collin College-Spring Creek Campus

From: Neil Matkin
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 8:05 PM
To: Betsy Brody
Cc: Monica Velazquez
Subject: Re: Another perspective

While I respect you (and your sister) a great deal, unfortunately I am not able to respond to your extraordinarily polite and professional letter at this time. There will come a time when I am able to respond. I appreciate your patience.

On Oct 22, 2020, at 3:18 PM, Betsy Brody <bbrody@collin.edu> wrote:

Dr. Matkin,

I hope this email finds you well. I am sure you have received many messages from my Collin colleagues over recent days. While I am not sure what my colleagues may have communicated to you, I would like to respectfully offer my perspective as a long-serving member of Collin's faculty.

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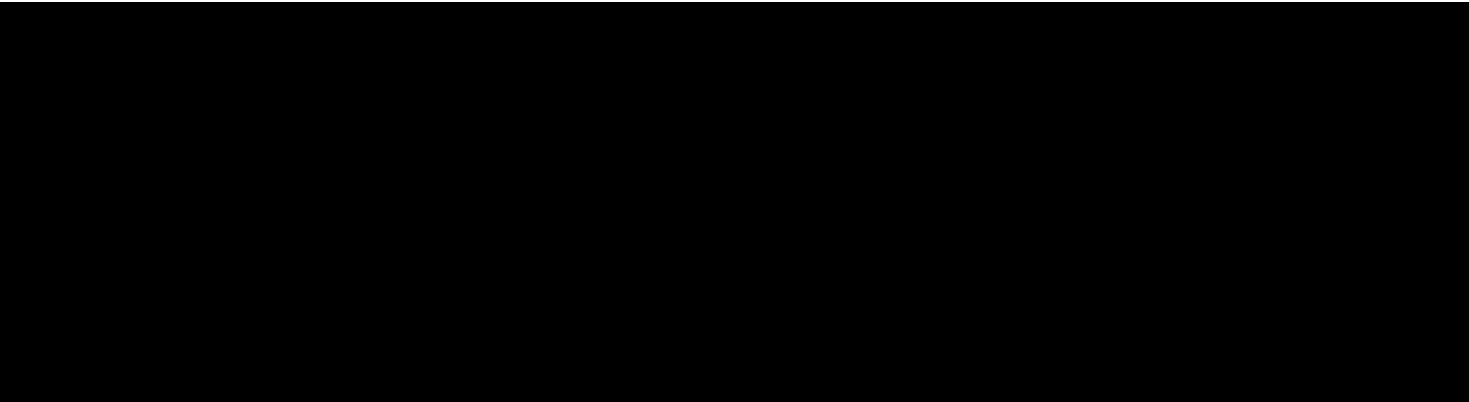
Sincerely,

Betsy Brody

Betsy Brody, Ph.D.

Professor of Political Science

Collin College-Spring Creek Campus



From: Tom von Alten [REDACTED]
Date: October 20, 2020 at 6:09:12 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Collin College's commitment to academic freedom

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Dr. Matkin:

We're not acquainted, and in fact I had never heard of Collin College until L.D. Burnett introduced me to it with her piece in The Chronicle of Higher Education.

It's quite the introduction.

As it happens, I'm married to a woman with an Ed.D. who led a program and served on the faculty council at the University of Idaho some decades ago, so I'm a little familiar with how things in academia go, or at least how they used to go. Our current milieu is rather different than the 70s and 80s.

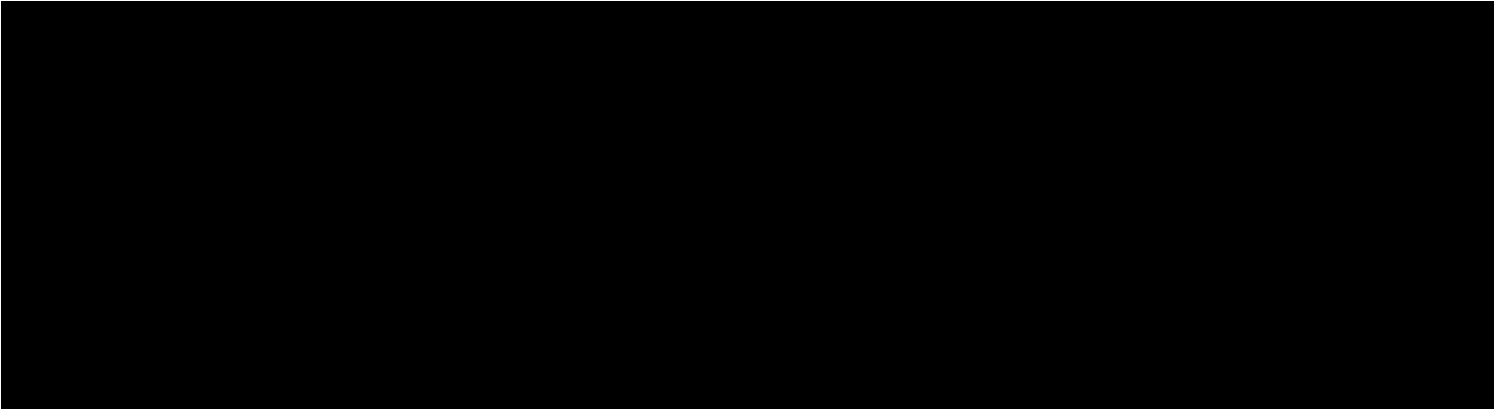
So, what do you have to say for yourself, and your institution? It seems like a response with the kind of breadth and specificity that Burnett supplied should be forthcoming. You could start with explaining what, exactly, that she wrote that you considered worthy of characterization as "hateful, vile, and ill-considered."

Looking forward to it.

In case it isn't clear, please tally my response to you in the "yes, you should uphold academic freedom" category, and "no, I don't think that should be decided by plebiscite" as well.

Cordially,

Tom von Alten
[REDACTED]



From: Jill Whitfield [REDACTED]
Date: October 21, 2020 at 9:01:56 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Dr. L. D. Burnett

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Dr. Matkin:

I wanted to lend my support on behalf of your professor, Dr. L. D. Burnett. Her tweet regarding Mike Pence was not hateful, vile or ill-considered. She was accurately representing the facts about the behavior of one of the candidates during a televised debate. Anyone watching the debate bore witness to the unassailable fact that VP Pence spoke over his opponent and over his allotted time frame. That is a fact. What you sent out to everyone on the planet about Dr. Burnett was in a word “ignorant.” I hope that you will deescalate this situation by issuing an apology to Dr. Burnett immediately. She is legally able to exercise her First Amendment free speech rights.

Sincerely,

Jill Whitfield

From: Misty Hook [REDACTED]
Date: October 27, 2020 at 4:41:49 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Free Speech

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President Matkin,

I read with interest about the firestorm over Dr. Lora Burnett's tweets on social media. As a former professor myself, I'm aware of how important it is for professors to have freedom of speech, especially when espousing unpopular views in the classroom. It's how we engage people with differing ideas and encourage critical thinking. It's why we have tenure.

However, Dr. Burnett wasn't acting as a professor on her Twitter account. She was acting as a private citizen and even went so far as to specifically mention it. Therefore, whatever she says there should not reflect upon her work. We live in the United States of America which, at present, is a democracy that follows the rules embedded in the Constitution. The very first amendment involves freedom of speech. While there are limits to this (usually due to safety concerns), almost every employee (even my husband who works for the federal government) gets to have their personal views while off the job without penalty.

I read your statement to the entire faculty and am deeply concerned that you (a) didn't talk with Dr. Burnett prior to sending this; and (b) winked at the rights of free speech and academic freedom. Any academic institution that wants to be taken seriously - as I assume Collin College does - knows that both of those concepts create the solid educational foundation upon which academic integrity rests. If faculty members are prohibited from discussing diverse points of view both on and off the job, then scholarship will suffer. If this happens, you'd better believe I'd urge against people working for or being educated by such an institution.

Further, as a taxpayer in Collin County who directly subsidizes the College, I must insist that you reconsider how you're handling this matter. I understand that the national spotlight and flood of communication must be irritating and overwhelming but that doesn't mean you get to sidestep basic principles of democracy, education, and human resources. If you want, as I do, to have Collin College be a place where top professors come to work and diligent students come to learn, then you need to immediately start

acting like a premier institution instead of a cut-rate college where everyone thinks alike.

My suggestion? Put out a statement saying that Dr. Burnett made comments in her capacity as a citizen and, thus, has no bearing on the College. That's it. That's all you have to do. In any event, do better. Dr. Burnett, your students, and the taxpayers of Collin County all deserve your best effort and not some reactionary drivel.

Sincerely,
Dr. Misty Hook

--

Misty K. Hook, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist
101 West McDermott, Suite 119
Allen, TX 75013
214-244-5835
Website: www.drmistyhook.com
Blog: www.thepsychologicalhook.com

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From: Julie Luton [REDACTED]
Subject: Free speech
Date: October 23, 2020 at 10:43:14 AM CDT
To: nmatkin@collin.edu

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Hello, President Matkin,

Recently, I became aware of an incident when a member of your faculty was censored with a public letter for speaking her mind about a political figure ... on her personal social media account with a disclaimer that her beliefs did not reflect Collin College's viewpoint. While you certainly had a right to post a statement about the fact that Professor Burnett's tweet did not reflect an official view of the college, you did not take the opportunity to inform the public that a person's private opinion of a public official's behavior is considered free speech.

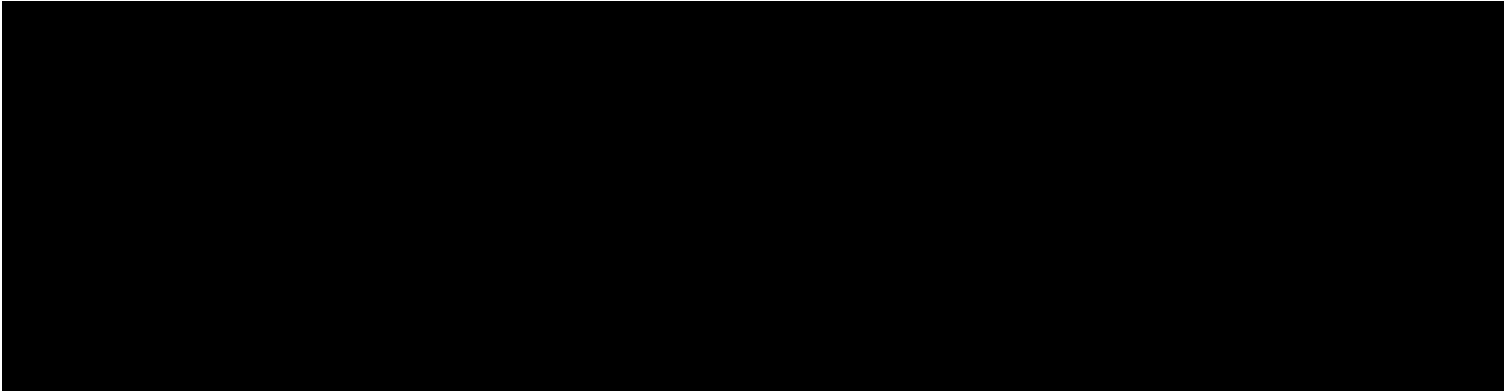
Free speech is definitely under attack in our country. We cannot afford for our institutions of higher education to be complicit in silencing discussion of the vitally important issues that face our country and our world today.

I'm including a link to an op-ed written by UT President Jay Hartzell that was just published in the *Dallas Morning News*. His words might offer some encouragement for you to continue to support your faculty in their quest to educate students to the best of their ability ... while retaining their commitment to diversity of thoughts and opinions ... and while maintaining their right to expressing their own opinions.

<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/commentary/2020/10/19/ut-austin-president-there-is-no-higher-education-without-free-speech/>

Thank you for your time,
Julie Luton

Collin County Resident

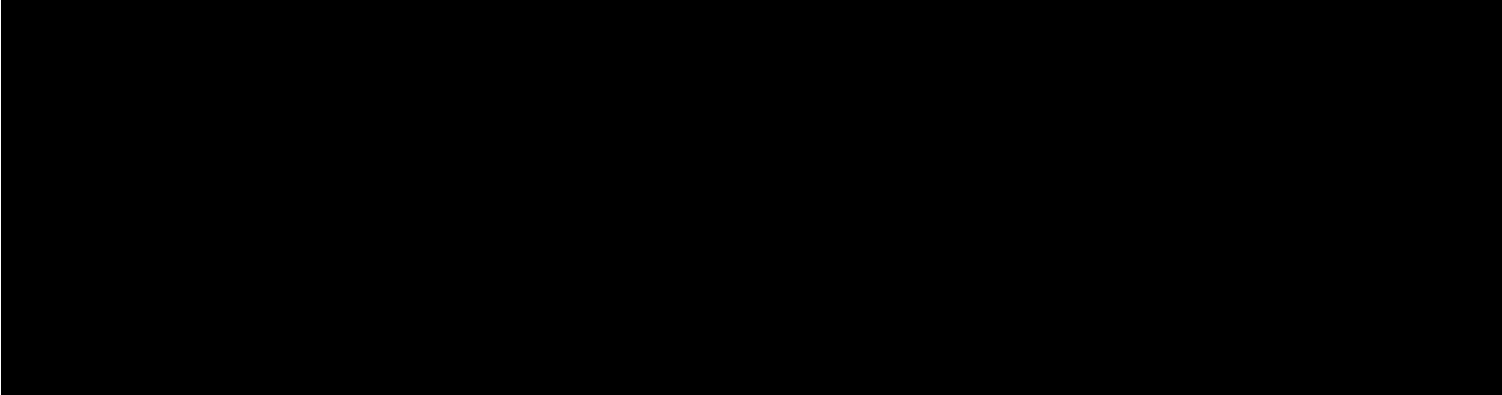


From: [REDACTED]
Date: October 23, 2020 at 3:45:47 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Free Speech by professor

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

I'm a Collin taxpayer and have been for over 23 years. I hope to see you strongly support freedom of speech by your faculty. Collin in particular has been plagued by narrow-minded thinking, and you should be thankful on the rare occasion when someone on your faculty shares a personal POV different from the mainstream. Please be the kind of boss that professors want - one that understands the important role of free speech in higher education and its positive effect on student life. Thank you!

Celeste Flippen
2803 Colonial Cir
McKinney TX 75072
214-504-8406 cell



From: Rodney Whitfield [REDACTED]
Date: October 21, 2020 at 7:00:12 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Free Speech

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President Matkin

As a previous student at Collin College prev. Collin Co. College, Free Speech is a right given to all Prof. Burnett was executing her rights to Free Speech

Rodney Whitfield

From: Brian Greenhalgh [REDACTED]
Date: October 23, 2020 at 4:38:43 AM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Freedom of Speech
Reply-To: Brian Greenhalgh [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Dr. Matkin,

I only know Dr. Michael Phillips through our Facebook contact. He says we disagree about most everything, whereas I think I agree with him more than I disagree. But the important thing is that we can agree to disagree and have civil conversations.

He posted a link to something posted by Campus Reform that was critical of some comments he made about President Trump as tweets. In this article was also the following:

"Phillips not only supports expanding, or packing, the [Supreme Court](#), but other [federal courts](#) throughout the country. He also called the [Senate](#) and the [Electoral College](#) "anti-democratic institutions," supported adding additional seats in the [House](#), and making [Puerto Rico and Washington D.C. states](#)."

These are issues I have actually discussed with Dr. Philips in the past. I strongly disagreed with him about adding additional justices to the Supreme Court, but we had an interesting discussion. I learn from our discussions and I would guess his history courses are excellently taught. I would also guess his colleague, Dr. Burnett is an asset to Collin College from what I have read about her after Campus Reform and FOX News targeted her.

I don't like outside organizations telling colleges what to do. I think it best that the administration of Collin College should only address complaints coming from students of the college.

What is happening has caused some focus on your institution. I think this has given you an opportunity to make Collin College known positively nationwide by defending the First Amendment rights of the faculty.

Although I ended up with an MSc. I started out in a community college in California. I took classes there that were among the best I ever had. One history course was taught by a fellow that was the political polar opposite to me at that time, but I sure learned a lot by taking his class. He gave an excellent address at a demonstration on campus, attacking Governor Reagan. I disagreed with him but he intelligently made interesting points.

Sincerely,

Brian Greenhalgh

From: Martha Kimery [REDACTED]
Date: October 21, 2020 at 7:42:39 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Handling of Professor's email

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Martha Kimery [REDACTED]
Date: October 21, 2020 at 7:27:33 PM CDT
To: neil.matkin@collin.edu
Subject: Handling of Professor's email

Dear Dr. Matkin,
If it is correct your campus wide email was the first the professor had heard that there would be a college response to her personal communication, shame on you! In educational administration we stress that instructional staff should not be corrected in front of....anyone. The tone and word choice of your public communication, one actually intended to reach a broad audience is offensive.

You actually have no business commenting in detail about someone else's personal communication. I received info about this incident on Twitter where I was able to verify 2 things: the professor's Twitter profile does not mention the college- indeed as of my viewing she specifically notes that her opinions do not reflect her employer's opinion, and most adults would not agree with your characterization of her remarks or language.

There were alternative formulations that would distance the college from the remarks without you,yourself, being offensive,

Sincerely,

Dr. M. Priscilla Kimery
Retired educator
Collin County Resident

From: Kevin Handy [REDACTED]
Date: October 24, 2020 at 6:43:19 PM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: LD Burnett Tweet

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Dr Matkin,

I wanted to address a recent posting by a faculty member of Collin College. I understand the Tweet was something found objectionable by you or a member of the executive team. I also understand the Board will take up this matter.

I want to communicate to you that the world will be watching if you or the Board of Trustees take any action against Professor Burnett. Any at all. The matter, regardless of what she did or did not say is never ever the purview of you as President of the University or any other University employee. I remind you that you serve at the pleasure of our citizens and that too can change should it be necessary. In fact your statement should have been that the College takes NO stand on the elections nor on anything its faculty might express. That should be your stand. Nothing more.

First Amendment freedom is a hallmark of academic freedom. In the 1960s people burned American flags on our campuses. Would I do so personally? No. Because I think it's disrespectful. But if you told me I shouldn't, or couldn't I'd burn 100 or 1,000 flags. Because we are a Democratic Republic. I would get a permit and I'd burn them across from a campus just to make the point. But that's not the kind of person I am. Doing something for effect isn't very useful unless the world is watching. You already did that for me. Thank you.

Until and unless faculty use college resources to make a political point we have no choice – First Amendment freedom protects them.

Here's what I find curious. You'll waste your time, the time of staff, our Board and others bringing this matter to the forefront. You issued a letter as the President of the College in this matter and took a public position, I would assume because you're Pro-Trump and found her posting objectionable for that reason rather than for reasons of taste. But this is a slippery slope Sir, a very slippery slope.

You wasted our time and tax dollars. I'd like you to make that point as well to our Board and if you can't I will.


If you did issue a letter your behavior concerns me more than anything she could say. Because your efforts were what I saw in Munich at the University. Students who objected and made statements

against the Government were hauled off, tortured and hanged. Is that what you want to encourage in our colleges and universities. I think you need to go to Germany and see the results I saw in 1985. If you have questions I met an avowed virulent Nazi in 1985 and I can tell you he was no less committed to Hitler 40 years after the fact.

Thank you,

Kevin

Kevin Handy
(214) 405-5875
PO Box 2342
Allen TX 75013
dfwenigma@gmail.com



From: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Date: October 27, 2020 at 6:38:05 AM CDT
To: Christopher Schaefer [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Ms. L.D. Burnett

<https://www.collincollegenews.com/2020/10/12/collin-college-statement-october-12-2020/>

On Oct 27, 2020, at 5:51 AM, Christopher Schaefer [REDACTED] wrote:

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Mr. Matkin,

After sharing what I read reported, and backed by responsible journalists, I thought you would respond, offering an explanation. I think of it now and, of course, you wouldn't respond if you agree with her. Thus the silence.

Well bravo I get it. I personally don't believe that people, especially those who teach should share their personal thoughts like that, and when they do should be disciplined. Obviously you think otherwise. Your university will not be one any of my family will attend I can guarantee you that.

C Schaefer

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Neil Matkin](#)
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 8:08 PM
To: [Christopher Schaefer](#)
Subject: Re: Ms. L.D. Burnett

Christopher,

You have my complete attention. Can you share the comments you referenced?

Thanks,

Neil

On Oct 9, 2020, at 6:58 PM, Christopher Schaefer

wrote:

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Mr. Matkin,

I read with horror your above professo's comments about our Vice President of the United States of America. Just incredible and not anyone I would want teaching my children. Please do something substantial.

Christopher Schaefer

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: "Moye, Todd" [REDACTED]
Subject: Re. Professor L.D. Burnett
Date: October 20, 2020 at 3:43:14 PM CDT
To: "nmatkin@collin.edu" <nmatkin@collin.edu>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear President Matkin,

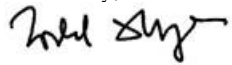
I am very concerned by the way you have responded to the online trolling campaign against one of Collin College's history professors, Dr. L. D. Burnett.

As a UNT professor I have a vested interest in making sure that Collin College students receive the best possible instruction in their history courses. Every year hundreds, perhaps thousands, of these students enroll at UNT after earning their A.A. degrees from your institution. Many of them end up in my classroom. (I have one exceptionally enthusiastic student this semester who has followed exactly this path. It is a delight to work with her.) I have also been lucky enough to collaborate with many colleagues at Collin College on a variety of projects, and to an individual I appreciate the professionalism, good cheer, and academic rigor they have brought to that work.

By now you must understand that Dr. Burnett's tweets have nothing to do with her teaching, which by all accounts is excellent. That the tweets attracted the attention of Campus Reform and Fox News has nothing to do with her teaching or employment; it has everything to do with the faux-outrage machine conservative political ideologues have created. I can understand that the this right-wing machine must have created a tsunami of emails that you felt pressure to respond to, but it is deeply regrettable that you took the outrage machine's charges at face value and that you did not instinctively defend your colleague. Dr. Burnett and your students—some of whom may become my students—deserve much better from you.

I hope you will reconsider these actions and offer your full support of Dr. Burnett, along with any other Collin professors whose exercise of their free speech rights should attract these bad-faith actors in the future.

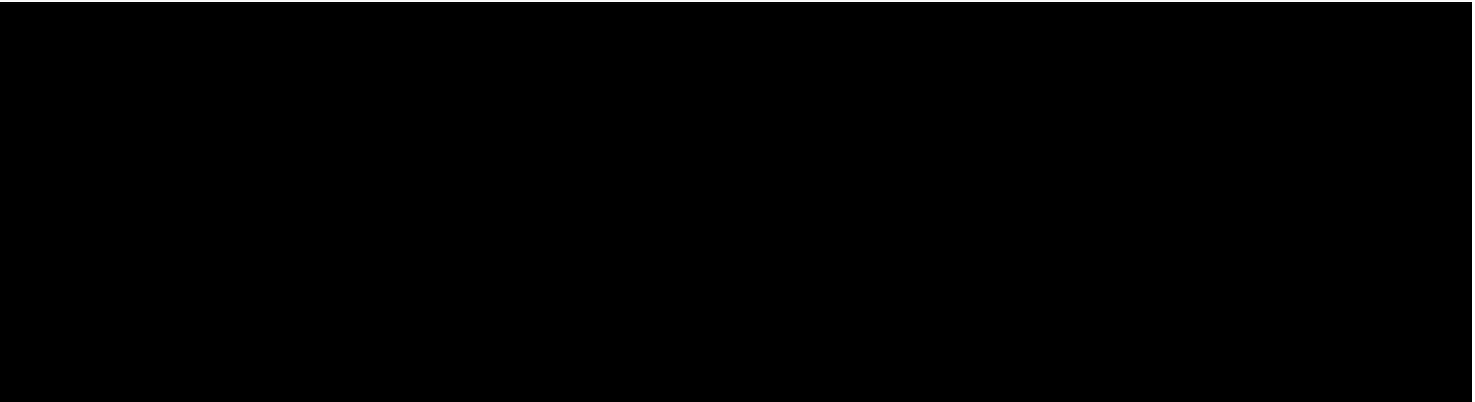
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Todd Moyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

J. Todd Moyer

Robnett Professor of U.S. History

Director, UNT Oral History Program



From: Heather Rebecca Cooper [REDACTED]
Date: October 23, 2020 at 6:22:08 AM CDT
To: Neil Matkin <nmatkin@collin.edu>
Subject: Thank you

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

As a former H.E. employee, I want to thank you for condemning your professor's attacks on V.P. Pence. It wasn't the political thing to do, it was the decent thing to do.

Your students, staff and faculty are luckier than they know to have you for a leader.

Heather Cooper