Like many in the Augustana community, I’ve been concerned about developments in Washington, D.C. Our nation is stronger when we welcome immigrants, provide education and other opportunities to those who dream of citizenship, and support and value all members of our community, including those who are Muslim or represent other religious minorities. Many members of our community are feeling unsafe because of political developments. I join our board, faculty and staff in committing to ensure that Augustana is a safe place for all of our students.

I'm in Washington, D.C., as I write this, and will be meeting with members of Congress. I will emphasize the importance of those born outside of the United States to our nation, to our college, and to our community. In the days that I am away, members of Augustana’s leadership are available to meet with you if you have specific concerns. These include:

- Dean and Provost Pareena Lawrence
- Dean of Students Evelyn Campbell
- Assistant Director in the Office of International Student Life Danny Kim

Like our nation as a whole, Augustana is made better by the contributions of immigrants. At Augustana, those faculty, staff and students born outside of the United States are central to the fabric of our wonderful community. Not only are most families descended from those who came here from other countries, many families, like my own, have family members who were born outside of the United States.

A fundamental part of the mission of Augustana College is to provide opportunities for all members of our community. We will do all we can to welcome, protect and cherish students and staff from all backgrounds.

But it is more than Augustana providing opportunities for our students. Our international students, our Muslim and other religious minorities, and all other students who have been historically marginalized make Augustana a better and more vibrant community, just as they have throughout our nation’s history made America great.

And at this time, I offer my thanks to all faculty and staff who work hard to support our students every single day, but a special thank you to our faculty and staff who came from
other countries but made the United States their primary home, and faculty and staff from other underrepresented backgrounds for all you've done to enrich Augustana College and support our students.

Steven C. Bahls
President
Augustana College