Statement from President Paul Dangerfield: United States of America Executive Order

February 1, 2017

The severity and scope of the Executive Order issued by the President of the United States on Friday, January 27, 2017 presents significant hardships and limitations to our students, employees and faculty, as it does to all Canadians and residents who are subject to its restrictions. The impacts on personal lives and freedoms is already being felt, and we are aware that some of our students may not be able to travel to the United States in the next 90 days or longer for competitions, exchanges and other learning opportunities.

Capilano University is comprised of students and employees representing more than 70 nations, including the seven Muslim-majority countries identified by the Order. This diversity stimulates a learning environment that thrives upon open, respectful engagement and appreciation of the ideas and opinions of one and all. This is our culture and our example to the world.

We consider all members of our campus community to be ambassadors of Capilano University and its values. The fact that students, employees and their family members are impacted, en masse, by the travel ban to the United States because of the citizenship they hold presents a grave disservice to the international community as it disrupts opportunities to promote the positive exchange of ideas, international understanding and cooperation.

As a place of higher learning we exist not only to support students in pursuing their academic studies but equally to help prepare them as responsible citizens, to take their place in the global community, to make an active contribution to a better world. We have been, and continue to be, successful in this way.

While we respect the laws and sovereignty of all nations, and those who call for the Order to be rescinded, it is our sincere hope that should the ban remain in effect for the full 90 day duration, a long-term solution be pursued that respects the rights, values and contributions of the vast majority of citizens worldwide who live their lives and relate to others with tolerance and care.

In the meantime, I would like to advise any students who are affected by the Order and need support to connect with our staff in the Wong & Trainor Centre for International Experience. As well, employees who require assistance under these stressful circumstances are encouraged to reach out to our Employee Assistance Program at [www.homewoodhealth.com](http://www.homewoodhealth.com).

If you have been directly impacted by the Order, or would like to share any thoughts for my consideration on this matter, please send them without delay in an email to: Sarah Parker in communications & marketing at [sarahparker@capilanou.ca](mailto:sarahparker@capilanou.ca), who will be collating written input for my review.

Thank you for your attention to this message, and your concern for this serious issue.
Sincerely,

Paul Dangerfield
President, Capilano University