PROVOST JONES REMARKS

Chabad at Penn State Annual Grand Menorah Lighting Ceremony

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

In remarks of behalf of the University, Penn State Executive Vice President and Provost Nick Jones welcomed attendees during the Chabad at Penn State Annual Grand Menorah Lighting.

Good evening, everyone. Thank you, Rabbi Hershy, for inviting me to this joyous occasion.

On behalf of the University and President Barron, it is an honor to join you for Chabad of Penn State’s Annual Grand Menorah Lighting.

Ceremonies such as this remind us of the importance of community -- and how vital it is to support and sustain an inclusive and diverse one at Penn State.

One of the University’s core institutional values is Respect: That we respect and honor the dignity of each person, embrace civil discourse, and foster a diverse, inclusive, and safe community.

Respect is at the core of what makes Penn State great. It’s also central to our obligations and responsibilities as a public institution of higher education.

Our faith-based communities and groups, including our large Jewish community, are all integral parts of one united Penn State.

These remain challenging times for everyone who cherishes their personal rights of worship.
But I am heartened by the unity and good will that bring us together to celebrate the lighting of the Menorah on the third night of Hanukkah.

This beautiful symbol gives us the opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the messages of light, truth, and goodness.

As we move into the final days of Hanukkah and the remaining weeks of our Fall semester, I hope you will reflect on what the menorah means.

Reflect on the importance of religious freedom – to you personally and to others, regardless of their faith.

And remember that each of us has an obligation to illuminate the world.

Members of our Jewish community – including thousands of students, faculty, and staff – are continuing to lead the way, so we all can travel a path that emphasizes light, kindness, and respect.

As we near the end of 2021, this all still matters – in ways that many of us never could have envisioned.

This evening, with the ceremonial lighting of the menorah, we are lighting up Penn State and our world with kindness.

Thank you very much for being a part of it. And Happy Hanukkah to all.