

Dear faculty, staff and students,

This is a challenging time for many in our community and across our nation. When the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* this past week, they reversed 50 years of legal precedent that provided women significant control over their own bodies.

Members of our community differ in their views about this decision, and we support the right of individuals to hold and express diverse opinions. But we are troubled by the effect this decision will have on marginalized individuals if they live in states that eliminate or reduce access to reproductive services in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision. Without access to these services, many of them will ultimately have less access to educational or work opportunities that provide economic mobility.

The decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* is also adding fuel to the divisiveness that has plagued our country. Along with near-daily information coming out of the January 6th hearings, this has left many in our community and around the country feeling destabilized, no matter what their personal or political beliefs.

Lewis & Clark is a supportive community that cares for its own. Now is a time to lean on that spirit of caring to support those in our community who are hurting. Support is also available through the Counseling Service, Case Management, and Health Promotion and Wellness. Other resources include the Ombuds Office and the Office of Spiritual Life.

Lewis & Clark also will continue to provide reproductive counseling and other services consistent with Oregon law, which has not changed following the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision. And in the fall, we will offer a variety of forums where we can discuss the decision in a manner that respects the rights of community members to have and express a diversity of opinions. Look for more information about these forums as we get closer to fall semester.

Sincerely,

Executive Council