



# UPSTATE

## MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

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*Office of the President & Health System CEO*

March 12, 2018

To the Upstate Community:

It has come to my attention that students and faculty may want to participate in the coming days and weeks, in two events, that have been highlighted nationally. These include the March 14 “Student National Walkout” and the “March for Our Lives” event on March 24.

The March 14 action that will be carried out by students across the county is both a memorial and protest. Students and teachers across the United States will walk out of their schools and universities for 17 minutes at 10 a.m. to honor the lives of the 17 people killed last month at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., and press lawmakers to pass stricter gun control laws, according to Women’s March Youth EMPOWER, the group organizing the action.

Organizers of the March 24 “March for Our Lives” event are urging families and students to join together in a march in our local communities to make safety a priority and that we end gun violence in our schools. A march will take place in here in Syracuse at the Everson Museum of Art at noon. As you know, our students and faculty have the right to engage in such activities. The Office of Student Affairs and the Executive Dean's Office will facilitate efforts so that students and faculty will be supported in arranging any missed work and/or assignments. Students and faculty exercising their rights and freedom to peacefully protest should not fear reprisal or negative repercussions for their choice to do so. They have the University's full support. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Danielle Laraque-Arena".

Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD, FAAP  
President & Health System CEO  
SUNY Upstate Medical University