CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT
UNIVERSITY

December 1, 2025

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
Governor of Virginia
Post Office Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

The Honorable Ghazala F. Hashmi
Chair, Senate Education and Health Committee
Post Office Box 396
Richmond, VA 23218

The Honorable Shelly A. Simonds
Vice Chair, House Education Committee
Post Office Box 13842
Roanoke, Virginia 24037

Dear Governor Youngkin, Senator Hashmi, and Delegate Simonds:

Free inquiry is at the core of liberal learning. As a university dedicated to the liberal arts and sciences, Christopher Newport is profoundly committed to the constitutional protection of free speech and expression.

At the direction of Virginia Code § 23.1-401.1(D), this Annual Report on Free Speech is submitted prior to December 1, 2025. Christopher Newport has developed and published materials and policies regarding constitutionally protected speech under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Our Statement on Free Speech and Expression and the process to report incidents of disruption of constitutionally protected speech may be viewed at http://cnu.edu/public/freespeech/. The University's statement on academic freedom and responsibility is included in the University Handbook (http://cnu.edu/public/handbooks/), and students' rights and responsibilities regarding freedom of expression are included in the Student Handbook (https://cnu.edu/public/studenthandbook/).

Additional University policies related to the use of campus facilities; posting, chalking, and distribution of materials; identification requirements; and discrimination and harassment can be found on the University's website at http://cnu.edu/policies/.

Employees responsible for the discipline or education of enrolled students have been notified of policies and rights stated in the Student Handbook regarding speech that is constitutionally protected under the First Amendment.

There have been no complaints filed in a court of law since December 1, 2024, to initiate a lawsuit against the University or a University employee for an alleged violation of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

As President of Christopher Newport University, I hereby affirm that the University has fulfilled the requirements of Virginia Code §23.1-401.1.

Sincerely,

William G. Kelly
President

cc: Division of Legislative Automated Systems (DLAS)
Jennifer Latour, Chief of Staff

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