Statement in Response to “Trump” and “Build the Wall” Chalk Writings

The Department of Latina/Latino Studies is deeply troubled by the “Trump” and “Build the Wall” chalk writings that appeared all over campus on April 5. Across the country, these terms have been used as anti-Latina/o racial epithets. We certainly support the right of people to voice their preference for particular political candidates. But when this support is expressed in ways that taunt a particular racial/ethnic group, we find it unacceptable. It is no coincidence that a “Trump” message was scrawled in front of the Department of Latina/Latino Studies building. Such a message was not intended to advance political dialogue, but to psychologically wound, breed intolerance, and create an atmosphere of insecurity for Latina/os on campus. We call on the Illinois community to take a strong stance against the Trump chalk writings and the effort to intimidate and demean Latina/os.