



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

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Linda G. Mills

Lisa Ellen Goldberg Professor
Vice Chancellor for Global Programs and University Life

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Dear World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize Committee,

I write to express my enthusiastic support for the Of Many Interfaith Celebration Week at New York University, hosted by the Of Many Institute for Multifaith Leadership at NYU (OM).

The Of Many Interfaith Celebration Week included several exciting opportunities for students to engage in interfaith dialogue, such as a lecture by New York University President John Sexton, a text study on creating a moral economy, and a lunch with young scholars from Abu Dhabi of different faith traditions. The Of Many Interfaith Celebration Week also served as the launch of NYU's new academic minor in Multifaith and Spiritual Leadership – the first of its kind at a major secular university in the United States. Together, these events provided an important forum for NYU students to participate in meaningful and thought-provoking conversations about faith and the role it plays in their lives.

The host of the week, the OM Institute, is an innovative, collaborative, and interdisciplinary venture within NYU that seeks to nurture students in their own spiritual traditions while simultaneously preparing them to be inspirational leaders who work across faith lines. The Institute is led by Imam Latif and Rabbi Sarna, who together have successfully fostered a culture of religious tolerance and promoted multifaith leadership both within our University and in the larger community. Their work has been recognized by the United Nations Temple of Understanding, the Center for American Progress, and several universities, institutions, and government agencies seeking to replicate OM's model within their communities.

The OM Institute at New York University and the Of Many Interfaith Celebration Week as its signature event share the values of the World Interfaith Harmony Week. The week reflects the OM Institute's commitment to promoting sustainable and peaceful coexistence between people of different faiths and introducing the work of interfaith education into classrooms, research projects, and on-the-ground service. I strongly encourage you to grant the prestigious World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize to the Of Many Interfaith Celebration Week, hosted by NYU's Of Many Institute for Multifaith Leadership.

Sincerely,

Linda G. Mills
Vice Chancellor for Global Programs and University Life
New York University