



## Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

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Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.  
Purdue President  
Hovde Hall, Room 200  
610 Purdue Mall  
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2040  
Sent via email: [president@purdue.edu](mailto:president@purdue.edu)

Dear President Daniels:

As executive director for the Japanese American Citizens League, the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, I write to you to call for the removal of Purdue University NW Chancellor Keon. The offensive remarks he made at the commencement ceremony are well documented, having marred what should have been a celebratory day for many students and their families. Although Chancellor Keon has offered an apology, it was insufficient and lacks any sense of responsibility.

Chancellor Keon acknowledged his remarks to be offensive and insensitive, but failed to acknowledge the full extent of what they were: Racist. No one wants to be called a racist, and yet, we often skirt around using this term for fear of offending the person who committed the racist act. This is not the time to spare Chancellor Keon's feelings in response to his actions being called for what they truly are. Furthermore, a statement from the university suggested the actions were taken out of context. There is no appropriate context for what happened.

Having been born in Fort Wayne, Indiana and the child of two former Indiana University students, I am proud of my Hoosier roots. However, the other aspect of growing up Asian American in the Midwest states of Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio, was that actions such as Chancellor Keon were not far from my normal childhood experience with my peers and unfortunately sometimes adults. I still see behavior such as this directed at me and my children.

Chancellor Keon should know better than to act as he did the other day and must be held accountable. For Purdue University to fail to respond to Chancellor Keon with anything short of his removal is a further insult to all of us who have had to endure racism such as his and to the diverse students and faculty of Purdue University NW whom he works for and with.

Sincerely,

David Inoue  
Executive Director