

Campus Update



A statement given by Gannon President Walter Iwanenko, Ph.D.:

“I write to address the deeply troubling social media posts and comments that have emerged following the tragic death of Charlie Kirk at Utah Valley University on Sept. 10, 2025. I am profoundly disappointed by these actions and must condemn the inappropriate reactions that have surfaced across various platforms, including from within our own university community.

In response, the university has initiated disciplinary actions, including termination.

Gannon University unequivocally condemns any and all social media posts, comments, or expressions that glorify, celebrate, or endorse political violence in any form. The taking of human life is never cause for celebration, regardless of political disagreements or ideological differences. Such reactions are not only morally reprehensible but fundamentally contrary to the values we hold as a Catholic university and as members of a civilized society.

While our university is deeply committed to intellectual inquiry and the open exchange of ideas, we draw a clear and unwavering line at content that promotes, glorifies, or celebrates violence. Freedom of expression does not extend to advocacy for violence against individuals or groups based on their political beliefs, affiliations, or viewpoints.

This tragic incident should serve as a sobering reminder that behind every political figure, activist, or public personality is a human being with family, friends, and loved ones who grieve an unimaginable loss.

Our society depends not just on our right to disagree, but on our commitment to disagreeing without dehumanizing those with whom we differ. The events of this week remind us that political violence has become all too common. May we accept the call to be better — as individuals, as a university community, and as citizens.”