

Lessons In Leadership: How Dillard University Managed Free Speech, Reconnected to its Mission, and Layered in the Law—All in a Matter of Days

Robert B. Farrell

Campus free speech generates strong opinions but few consider the challenge it presents to campus leadership. Presidents espouse diversity and inclusivity while recognizing the importance of all ideas, some of which threaten those goals. Dillard University in New Orleans faced this issue. In doing so, Dillard found its core ideals and determined that as a liberal arts institution, facing controversy required an HBCU to host a former leader of the Klan. Its president placed his reputation and his job on the line for this conviction. Dillard is a story of courage in the face of adversity.