

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Department of Public Safety
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Dear Iowa State Community,

We received reports over the weekend of a racist email sent to thousands of members of the Iowa State community. The email, which purported to be from Equity Prime Mortgage, contained abhorrent, vile language, including references to violent white supremacy, lynching, and a racist slur. We understand how upsetting this was for those who received the email, especially our Black colleagues and students. Iowa State University condemns this repugnant hate-filled message and the racism and white supremacy it aimed to spread.

ISU's Information Technology Services Security Team determined that nearly 4900 Iowa State University affiliated email accounts received the email. The vast majority were faculty and staff email accounts, but a few student accounts did receive the message. ITS was able to intervene and remove nearly 70 percent of the messages before they were opened, and block the sender.

We have since learned that Iowa State University is among other higher education institutions across the country, including Harvard University and Stanford University, that were targeted. Iowa State University Police are working with the FBI to determine who is responsible for the cyberattack.

We appreciate the many people who reported this email to the [Campus Climate Reporting System](#), Information Technology Services Security Team, and Iowa State University Police.

Please remain vigilant; ITS offers [resources and information](#) about cyberattacks and ways to protect against them. Please contact ITS Security, security@iastate.edu, to report cyber threats. For those in need of additional support, please do not hesitate to reach out to these [campus resources](#).

Chief Michael Newton

Associate Vice President for Public
Safety and Chief of Police

Kristen Constant

Interim Vice President and Chief Information
Officer