# Wayne State University suspends in-person classes due to pro-Palestinian encampment



Wayne State University in Detroit has suspended in-person classes and encouraged staff to work remotely due to a pro-Palestinian encampment that began last week. The university announced at 5:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, that all on-campus events are canceled until further notice, with critical infrastructure workers still expected to report.

Spokesman Matt Lockwood cited public safety concerns, particularly regarding access to certain areas. Approximately two dozen tents were set up near the undergraduate library, monitored by police and private security. Despite repeated requests for the camp's removal, organizers have declined.

University President Kimberly Andrews Espy had offered to meet with organizers if the encampment was cleared by Monday night, but the offer was not accepted. The suspension impacts about 16,000 undergraduate students, though fewer are enrolled during the summer term.

This event is part of a broader movement, with similar protests at universities in the U.S. and Europe calling for institutions to cease business dealings with Israel or companies supporting its actions in Gaza. Previous similar actions include the University of Michigan, which dismantled a 30-day encampment on May 21.

Wayne State's vice president, Patrick Lindsey, mentioned that the university's investment policies would be discussed at a June 26 board meeting.