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[Letter from Esther Raushenbush to Mount Vernon Residents, June 30, 1969]

Esther Raushenbush
Sarah Lawrence College

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This letter sent to all
on the attached list.

June 30, 1969

Dear [REDACTED]:

Before I leave the Office of President of Sarah Lawrence College, I wanted to tell you how grateful I was for the interest and concern you and other community leaders expressed for Sarah Lawrence and Dr. [REDACTED] in your visit here several weeks ago.

As Dr. DeCarlo and I told you then, the Lynd House sit-in was the occasion but not the cause of the closing of the Institute for Community Studies. We suspended the Institute because we felt we needed time to reassess the role that the College should play in serving our neighboring communities, in view of our small size and our primary function of educating our students.

Although the Institute received most of its financial support from government agencies, foundations, private contributions, and fees, we had come to realize several months ago that the structure of the Institute needed to be reviewed in terms of both of the functions it has been serving--as an educational instrument for our students, and as an agency for community service.

I want to make absolutely certain that this action in no way is perceived as a criticism of Dr. [REDACTED]'s valuable work in the community. By unanimous vote, the faculty adopted a resolution supporting Dr. [REDACTED], and the administration shares in that high regard for Dr. [REDACTED]. We fully recognize the credit he has been to the College and the field work opportunities he has provided for our students. As a member of the faculty, he will continue his present teaching and research and I am sure he will be fully supported in his studies as I have supported him in the past.

The College has now appointed a faculty committee to make recommendations for the restructuring of the Institute. Dr. [REDACTED] is a member of that committee, and I know he will help the College find the directions we must seek in this area. The College expects to consult with men and women who have had experience on a national scale with this urgent issue of how a college should be involved in the community.

Cordially yours,

Esther Raushenbush

(signed in Mrs. Raushenbush's absence)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Mount Vernon, New York 10550