

Appreciating diversity





Your Turn

If you broadly define the term *diversity* as differences in race, gender, ethnicity, religion, political preference, and the like, how diverse would you describe this college as being?



Understanding Diversity and the Source of our Beliefs

- **Diversity:** variations in social and cultural identities among people living together
- **Multiculturalism:** the active process of acknowledging and respecting the diverse social groups, cultures, religions, races, ethnicities, attitudes, and opinions within a community



Your Turn

Write about any specific lessons you learned in your family about the expectations you should have of diverse groups.

Forms of Diversity

- Ethnicity, culture, race, and religion
- Age
- Learning and physical abilities
- Gender
- Sexual orientation

Your Turn

Can you remember any time in your life when you gave up a dream because you thought it was “inappropriate” for someone of your gender? Can you remember a time when you assumed you wouldn’t be good at an activity, a sport, or a course because of your gender? What advice could you give to other students about not letting their gender narrow their range of life options?



Seeking Diversity on Campus

- The curriculum
- Student-run organizations
- Fraternities and sororities
- Career/major groups
- Political/activist organizations
- Special-interest groups



Discrimination, Prejudice, and Insensitivity on College Campuses

- Raising awareness
 - Campus resources and centers providing acknowledgment of and support to the diverse student population
 - Establishment of policies against any and all forms of discriminatory actions, racism, and insensitivity
- What you can do to fight hate on campus
 - Will you do something about it, or do you think it is someone else's problem?
 - Work with existing campus services



Your Turn

Have you ever witnessed or been a victim of harassment because of your gender, race, regional identity, religion, or ethnic group? What can colleges and universities do to reduce the incidence of harassment?



Challenge Yourself to Experience Diversity

- Diversity enriches us all
 - Become more culturally aware and more open to differing viewpoints
- Challenge yourself to learn about various groups in and around your community
 - Gives you an opportunity to develop skills to function in a variety of settings
 - Can also be gratifying
 - Helps you become a more educated person



Tech Tip: The Case For Volunteering

Volunteering to build your resume, explore career options, and broaden your horizons

- You'll get to go to interesting places and do important work
- You'll learn to appreciate diversity
- You might get to travel internationally
- You'll gain valuable experience that could help you in your career
- Will help you become a happier, more fascinating, and less self-absorbed person