

*Statement from President Morton Schapiro*

Northwestern University is committed to excellent teaching, innovative research and the personal and intellectual growth of its students in a diverse, inclusive and supportive academic environment. The foundation of this pursuit is made possible by the committed students, faculty and staff who are the heart of the University. This mutual and respectful exchange of unique ideas, experiences and perspectives sustains the depth of our learning.

True diversity is defined not only as differences in individual backgrounds, personal identities, intellectual approaches and demographics; it is also the removal of barriers and the creation of spaces that allow individuals to engage in the full life of the University. As individuals with our own distinct identities — be they comprised of faith, race, sexuality, gender, abilities, socioeconomic class, etc. — we each offer an irreplaceable opportunity to understand and examine the issues before us from a newly encountered dimension. The commitment to providing these opportunities equitably to each and every member of our community is the force behind creating a diverse, inclusive and ideal Northwestern University.

It is our responsibility to challenge our students, faculty, staff and alumni to acknowledge differences as strengths in order to develop an environment that ensures access, promotes equity, values enrichment and enables wellbeing. Only by exploring issues with people of different backgrounds and viewpoints can we challenge our assumptions, test our ideas and broaden our understanding of the world.

Northwestern University reaffirms and renews its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. We must strive to strengthen and sustain this pledge in order to keep pace with the societal changes that are now occurring and in order to be an exemplar among our peers. Through fostering this ideal we weave together the fabric of our dynamic, vibrant and just community.