

**'DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ARE INTEGRAL PARTS OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION, AND WILL CONTINUE  
TO INFLUENCE BOTH CAMPUS AND CLASSROOM LIFE.'**

## The value of diversity, inclusion in higher-ed

The educational experience for students, faculty and administrators has evolved considerably over the past decade. If you were to take a walk on a typical college or university campus in the United States today, you would observe an array of diverse groups.

The changing demographics of America is challenging all educational institutions to reflect on the best ways to understand and embrace the notion of diversity and inclusion and to include faculty, staff, students and the community in reaping the benefits of more diverse and inclusive campuses. Through institutional leadership and commitment, faculty and staff development, curriculum innovations, and campus and community partners, institutes of higher education will be better prepared to provide the best possible educational environment for all.

There are more than 6,000 colleges and universities in America, each one with different and unique qualities that include people from a variety of socioeconomic and geographical backgrounds, work and personal experiences, ethnicities, religious beliefs, physical abilities, sexual orientations, and education. It is this collective mix of differences that make the colleges and universities in America among the best in the world.

Institutions that are committed to diversity and inclusion have many benefits. They provide opportunities for a richer educational experience, and prepare leaders and contributors for an increasingly inclusive society. An in-



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clusive and diverse faculty and administration effectively facilitates learning for each student. They actively model cultural differences and serve as strong mentors. Campus and community connections provide innovative and unique learning opportunities so that students have interactions at multiple perspectives, and learn through actual day-to-day experiences outside of the traditional classroom.

When an educational institution recruits and retains diverse talent, the students, faculty and senior leaders embrace and represent a range of ideas and experiences that characterize the social and cultural world in which we live and learn. Diversity and inclusion are integral parts of higher education and will continue to influence both campus and classroom life. Student groups are more diverse today than ever before, and institutions have a responsibility to ensure that this diversity is as well-represented among the faculty, staff and administration that educate and shape our future leaders.

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