

A Message of Inclusion

Miles Community College (MCC)

August 2023

Dear Members of the MCC Community:

At Miles Community College, we wholeheartedly believe diversity and inclusion are essential cornerstones of a vibrant and enriching educational experience. We are committed to fostering an environment where every individual's unique background, perspective, and identity is not only acknowledged but celebrated. Our commitment to diversity and inclusion is not just a statement; it's a fundamental value that shapes our campus culture in both policies and practices.

Our community thrives on the principles of respect, equity, and open dialogue. We recognize that diversity goes beyond visible differences such as race, gender, ethnicity, and nationality. It encompasses a wide range of characteristics, including socioeconomic status, religious or ideological beliefs, abilities, and more. Embracing diversity allows us to create a dynamic learning environment that prepares our students for success in an increasingly interconnected and globalized world.

Our vision is to cultivate inclusive environments, equitable opportunities, and engaged communities.

We strive to create an atmosphere where all individuals feel empowered to contribute their unique perspectives. We are dedicated to dismantling barriers that impede full participation and engagement and continuously seek opportunities to improve accessibility and representation across all aspects of campus life. The insights and opinions of our students, faculty, and staff are valuable, so we create platforms that allow individuals to voice their concerns, share their experiences, and actively participate in shaping the campus environment.

To achieve our mission and vision, we have identified the following goals and commitments through our campus strategic plan:

1. Cultivating a community of belonging and a culture of inclusiveness for students of all backgrounds and abilities
2. Promoting and cultivating a culture of lifelong learning
3. Dedication of continued effort and resources to the work of building and maintaining an equitable and inclusive institution
4. Continue supporting diversity and creating inclusion among our employees to reflect both our community and our student population.

Ultimately, we envision a campus where diversity is celebrated, inclusion is the norm, and all individuals come together to learn, grow, and contribute to a better society. By embracing diversity and promoting inclusion, we believe we can create a transformative educational experience that prepares our students to thrive.

Sincerely,

Ron Slinger, President

Rita Kratky, Vice President of Academic Affairs

Richard DeShields, Dean of Student Engagement and Auxiliary Services

Kylene Phipps, Dean of Administrative Services and Human Resources

Erin Niedege, Dean of Enrollment Management and Educational Support Services

Nancy Aaberge, Business Services Director

Garth Sleight, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

Sam Giordanengo, Associate Dean of Instruction and eLearning

Molly Magestro, President of the MCC Faculty Association

Jessica Lofland, Chair of the MCC Staff

Elizabeth Patten, Director of Institutional Advancement

Jerry Olson, Athletic Director

Austin Kountz, President of the Associated Students of MCC