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The Principles of Community

Click on underlined text for further explanation of terms in our glossary.

"The University of California, Davis, is first and foremost an institution of **learning** and teaching, committed to **serv**ing the needs of society. Our campus community reflects and is a part of a society comprising all [races](#), creeds and social circumstances.

The successful conduct of the university's affairs requires that every member of the university community acknowledge and practice the following basic principles:

We affirm the **inherent dignity** in all of us, and we strive to maintain a **climate of justice** marked by respect for each other. We acknowledge that our society carries within it historical and deep-rooted misunderstandings and [biases](#), and therefore we will endeavor to foster **mutual understanding** among the many parts of our whole.



We affirm the right of [freedom of expression](#) within our community and affirm our commitment to the highest standards of **civility** and decency towards all. We recognize the right of every individual to think and speak as dictated by personal belief, to **express** any idea, and to disagree with or counter another's point of view, limited only by university regulations governing time, place and manner. We promote open expression of our individuality and our [diversity](#) within the bounds of **courtesy**, **sensitivity** and **respect**.

We confront and reject all manifestations of [discrimination](#), including those based on [race](#), [ethnicity](#), [gender](#), [age](#), disability, [sexual orientation](#), [religious](#) or political beliefs, status within or outside the university, or any of the other differences among people which have been excuses for misunderstanding, dissension or hatred. We recognize and **cherish** the richness contributed to our lives by our diversity. We take **pride** in our various achievements, and we **celebrate** our differences.

We recognize that each of us has an obligation to the community of which we have chosen to be a part. We will strive to build a true community of **spirit** and purpose based on **mutual respect** and caring."