

# The Principles of our Equitable Community

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## **THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR EQUITABLE COMMUNITY**

Lehigh University is first and foremost an educational institution, committed to **developing the future leaders of our changing global society**. Every member of our community has a personal responsibility to acknowledge and practice the following basic principles:

- We **affirm the inherent dignity** in all of us, and we maintain an inclusive and equitable community.
- We **recognize and celebrate** the richness contributed to our lives by our diverse community.
- We **promote mutual understanding** among the members of our community.
- We **confront and reject discrimination in all its forms**, including that based on age, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socio-economics, veteran status, or any differences that have been excuses for misunderstanding, dissension, or hatred.
- We **affirm academic freedom** within our community and uphold our commitment to the highest standards of **respect, civility, courtesy, and sensitivity** toward every individual.
- We **recognize each person's right to think and speak** as dictated by personal belief and to **respectfully** disagree with or counter another's point of view.
- We **promote open expression of our individuality and our differences** within the bounds of **University policies**.
- We **acknowledge each person's obligation to the community** of which we have chosen to be a part.
- We take **pride** in building and maintaining a culture that is founded on these **principles of unity and respect**.

(Adopted 2011)