

“STRIVE” for Academic Excellence Through Inclusion

The “First in 2009” Coordinating Council and University Multicultural Council propose that Miami University commit and align its educational mission to the simple but powerful notion that inclusion leads to academic excellence. By inclusion, we have a broadly construed definition of diversity which includes:

- 1) Attracting students, faculty and staff from a wide range of racial, ethnic, religious, geographical, socioeconomic backgrounds and sexual orientations.
- 2) Providing a University climate that
 - values individuals with diverse beliefs and backgrounds
 - fosters public debate and democratic discourse
 - cultivates intercultural understanding and critical reflection

By increasing and deepening inclusion on Miami’s campuses, we will advance President Garland’s “First in 2009” plan. We have generated a draft of a unifying vision using the acronym, “STRIVE,” to create coherence in our diversity efforts, and we invite campus-wide feedback and discussion on this vision.

Students, faculty and staff who are highly qualified, diverse and capable of leadership in a global community—Breadth of experience and perspective enhances the learning for all.

Teaching that promotes deep learning—Interdisciplinary, experiential, technology- and inquiry-based, service- and collaborative learning, team-taught, writing-intensive courses and a challenging co-curriculum deepen the learning for all students.

Resources and support for faculty and staff—Faculty and staff will expand their ability to reach a greater diversity of learners through increased resources and support (revenue, enhanced facilities and professional development).

Inclusive community and campus life—Various groups working to create a climate of inclusion will challenge our students to think in new ways and foster a shared commitment to social responsibility.

Values that promote intercultural understanding and a healthy public, democratic discourse.

Evaluation and assessment in the form of best practices and benchmarking—Data can help us to continually improve the ways that we enrich the learning communities on our four campuses.

Achieving full inclusion and academic excellence on our campuses is ambitious. Not only will this vision necessitate ample fiscal resources, but it will also demand considerable perseverance, time, creativity as well as broad-ranging input and collaboration to address it fully. Moreover, it is a goal which will never be fully attained but must be an ongoing concern for every unit at our University. We invite you to participate, and we are here to assist you in achieving this vision.