

Good afternoon,

I am writing today to announce the formation of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee.

First, I would like to thank all of you who self-nominated or nominated your colleagues for service on this committee. Reading through the statements from 19 full-time faculty, 15 staff, 4 students, and P-fac's official nomination was an edifying experience for me. To see the expertise and knowledge of our community made manifest in this series of thoughtful messages gives me a sense of deep optimism about our ability to do transformative work in this critically important area.

My goal was to create a committee comprising individuals whose experience and expertise would ensure that a wide range of perspectives be brought to bear on the work of advancing diversity and inclusion at our institution. I have not set out to assemble the "CCC Diversity Dream team." Rather, this committee is a working group, one of whose key charges will be to develop partnerships with experts and practitioners in our community; the committee's primary focus on systemic and global issues will need to be richly informed by the deeper, more focused work of the many who are not members of the committee.

The members of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee are:

Peter Carpenter, Associate Professor, Dance; acting chair, Department of Dance  
Ramona Gupta, coordinator Asian American Cultural Affairs, Multicultural Affairs  
Luther Hughes, senior, Poetry major; president, Student Government Association  
Jeffrey Howard, college advisor, College Advising Center  
Elio Leturia, Associate Professor, Journalism  
Kathleen Loftus, Lecturer, Education  
Onye Ozuzu, committee chair; Professor, Dance; interim dean, School of Fine and Performing Arts  
Janet Pena-Davis, Part-time Faculty, Television  
Matthew Shenoda, Associate Professor, Creative Writing  
Brooke Thomas, senior, Marketing Communications major; president, Black Student Union  
Fo Wilson, Associate Professor, Art and Art History

With the permission of the committee members, I am sharing their statements [here](#).

Our strategic plan declares that "We will be known as a national leader in higher education for our systemic and comprehensive commitment to diversity and inclusion as a fundamental basis for accomplishing our mission." The formation of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee is the first step in addressing this strategic goal. I look forward to working with the committee and the college community to embed our commitment to valuing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the college's curriculum, programming, operations, built environment, and institutional culture.

Thank you.

Kwang-Wu Kim  
President and CEO  
Columbia College Chicago