

AUSTIN COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

June 1, 2020

TO OURSELVES, OUR NEIGHBORS, OUR NATION, AND THE WORLD:

Our Mission Statement says that Austin College values Personal Growth, Justice, Community, Service, Academic Excellence, Intellectual & Personal Integrity, and Participation in Community Life.

Because we value personal growth, Austin College seeks to embrace diversity, eliminate inequalities in our campus community, and foster critical inquiry and ethical reflection. Because we value justice, Austin College resists all efforts based on race, religious identity, or nationality to limit the ability of any person to participate fully and safely in the life of our institution. We call upon our government to make and enforce just laws that recognize and respect the rights of all people.

Because we value community, Austin College encourages and fosters respectful interaction between community members from various racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds. We encourage our neighbors and fellow citizens to seek opportunities for respectful interaction with community members from different racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, or socioeconomic groups.

Because we value service, Austin College encourages and enables our students and alumni to identify, develop, and share their particular gifts within the various communities in which they participate. We believe we are all gifted people, and we believe that gifted people should work to ensure that their giftedness is good news for others, especially for those of our neighbors who are having a hard time.

Because we value academic excellence and intellectual & personal integrity, Austin College requires students to take courses in Global Diversity and Systems of Power, Privilege, and Inequality. We invite and encourage our government, our neighbors, and our fellow citizens to embrace and value the diversity of our society and our world and to address and eliminate unjust systems of power, privilege, and inequality.

Because we value participation in community life, the students, faculty, and staff of Austin College celebrate and affirm racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, political, and

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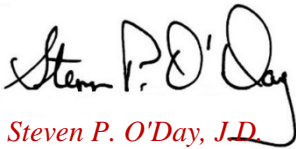
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international diversity. We believe our diversity makes us stronger, and we encourage and invite our government, our neighbors, and our fellow citizens to work together to build and maintain communities in which all people are safe, cherished, and equally respected.

Because we are, and have always been, formally related to the Presbyterian Church, Austin College honors the dignity and worth of every person. We call upon our government, our neighbors, and our fellow citizens to honor the dignity and worth of every person, regardless of skin color, political opinion, sexuality, gender identity, or economic status.

This is us. Diverse, inclusive, and united.

Sincerely,



Steven P. O'Day, J.D.

President

*The Cecil H. and Ida M. Green
Chair of Creative Educational Leadership*

