

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Richard Stockton College is committed to building a community that values differences of race, religion, gender, ethnicity, national origin, socio-economic status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, age, ability or disability. We accept our responsibility to create and preserve an environment that is free from prejudice and discrimination.

The College promotes an open exchange of ideas in a setting that embodies the values of academic freedom, responsibility, integrity and cooperation. Recognizing and understanding the significance of our similarities and differences will ultimately foster appreciation for others and enrich the individual, the campus and the community at large.

BENEFITS

Diversity is intellectually challenging, and engagement with diversity is crucial to achieving the mission of a broad, liberal arts education. Intellectual and social diversity can teach students to appreciate alternative modes of understanding. Students learn more from exposure to unfamiliar topics, issues and perspectives than from material that reinforces previously held beliefs. A diverse college environment is also necessary for students to gain a greater understanding of themselves. This process of self-discovery requires that students interact in a safe, respectful, and affirming environment with people – faculty and staff as well as other students – who have different life experiences than their own. This interaction teaches that people are individuals who cannot be characterized by stereotypes and overgeneralizations. Exposure to diverse perspectives in and out of the classroom enables students to better define the people they wish to become, along with gaining a better understanding of their past.

The College has a role in the development of new ideas and the improvement of the physical and human environment of the surrounding community. Engagement with diversity engenders tolerance, empathy, and compassion. It prepares students to work effectively in a variety of contexts with people from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Not only does engagement with diversity prepare students to become cooperative and productive contributors to our society, it also ensures that the interests of people who have been traditionally underrepresented will be protected by those members of society who have been educated in diverse environments. The College's commitment to diversity thus promotes important social values for democratic citizenship.

Approved
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