

Dear Members of the Lehigh Community:

We want to update you on the progress we are making in addressing issues of diversity and inclusion at Lehigh.

VISIONS Training

The CEC recently convened for a two days of training and planning led by VISIONS Inc., a non-profit organization that specializes in diversity and inclusion, frequently working with colleges and universities.

The VISIONS experience was tremendously helpful. We gained new tools for discussing and moving forward with complicated issues. A key product of the training is a [12-month action plan](#) that has been approved by senior leadership and the university Board of Trustees.

We will be continuing our work with VISIONS over the next few months and hope to make further progress on these initiatives as soon as possible.

Trustees Meeting

CEC played an important role during the recent Trustees meeting which focused on diversity and inclusion. You can read more about that meeting [here](#), which also led to a [resolution](#) by the trustees to support our work.

Opportunities for Engagement

In order to share information more widely, the [Events Calendar](#) on the university website now features a Diversity and Inclusion event category. This will allow event promoters to highlight programs of this nature, and will allow everyone to search out these opportunities for dialogue and engagement.

We also welcome your opinions and encourage you to contact us – or any member of the CEC listed on our [website](#) – with suggestions and comments.

Student Involvement

We are working to add a number of student members to the CEC so that we can ensure all aspects of the Lehigh campus community have a voice on the council. In an effort to provide a more agile and responsive leadership structure, the CEC also developed an executive committee that includes the individuals listed below.

Campus Response to Anonymous Social Media

The CEC applauds the positive, unified action from Lehigh student leaders and others within the Lehigh community in opposition to the Yik Yak app. An [overview](#) of these activities is posted on the CEC website. We extend our thanks to the students, staff and faculty who shared these initiatives with the CEC, as we continue to coordinate efforts to increase unity on campus.

We're making progress, but we also know that there is much more work to do. We look forward to working together with the entire campus to forge a better Lehigh.

You'll hear more from us soon.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Swann, professor of Biological Sciences

Lori McClaind, director of Academic Transitions

Tyrone Russell, director of Multicultural Affairs

Rita Jones, director of the Women's Center

Kathleen Hutnik, director of Graduate Student Life

Tom Yencho, director on online and digital marketing and chair of ERAC.