

From the Desk of the Chancellor

Celebrating all diversity

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by Charles R. Bantz

The principle of inclusion is not selective. There are no asterisks to dismiss certain people based on their race, religion, physicality, ethnicity, nationality, gender, political persuasion or sexual orientation.

You don't have to be in agreement with an individual to demonstrate respect for him or her as human beings and for his or her choices or circumstances. Respect for differences is a defining characteristic of a university community and a free and open society.

As members of an academic community, where the exchange of perspectives is not only pervasive but vital, we must always work toward the acceptance of differences in people, ideas, opinions and lifestyles.

I welcome the diverse mix of students, faculty and staff on our campus and especially those active participants in our academic community who raise issues that merit our attention and concern.

Best wishes to our LGBT Faculty-Staff Council and IUPUI Advocates for Sexual Equality on their fifth annual Harvey Milk Dinner at the Indianapolis Marriott on Saturday, Oct. 11, which coincides with "National Coming Out Day." The keynote speaker is comedian, actor and musician Lea DeLaria, who currently stars in the Netflix series "Orange is the New Black."

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