



From the Office of the President

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REGIS UNIVERSITY | DENVER, COLORADO

Race, Justice and Progress

Office of the President

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Dear Colleagues,

In her stirring inaugural poem last week, National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman spoke plainly and prophetically about race, justice and progress.

"We are far from polished, far from pristine, but that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect.

We are striving to forge a union with purpose.

To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man..."

Within hours of being sworn in, President Biden reversed an executive order by former President Trump that prohibited recipients of federal grants and contracts ~ including Regis University ~ from providing training on academically sound and peer-reviewed concepts such as unconscious bias, systemic racism, white supremacy, and intersectionality. It was a brazen effort by the former President to suppress advocacy for equity and inclusion and to erode progress toward justice for all marginalized people. Plainly, it attacked our mission.

Gratefully, the University's approximately \$1.1 million in federal contracts are no longer at risk simply because last fall we committed to providing diversity training and refused to stop. Although we clearly stated that we did not agree with and would not stand by the executive order, we can openly continue our efforts.



I am grateful the nation has turned a page, away from a blind allegiance to ignorance about historic white supremacy, and towards a future that acknowledges past failures honestly and embraces respect and appreciation of all peoples. I close with another excerpt from Amanda Gorman's "The Hill we Climb".

"We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance of the next generation, become the future.

Our blunders become their burdens.

But one thing is certain.

If we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our children's birthright."

Gratefully and with a warm heart,

Rev. John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.

President