



From the Office of the President

John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.
REGIS UNIVERSITY | DENVER, COLORADO

**Regis University Statement of Principles
September 6th, 2017**



Dear Regis Community,

As many know, last academic year our Northwest Denver campus became a pulsing microcosm of the world we live in. Conflict, misunderstanding, pain, love and hope emerged side by side in the community we love and call Regis University. Like many in our country, we have felt our fears and disbelief multiply in the wake of Charlottesville and the President's unconscionable response, as hate speech and the violence it engenders is increasingly normalized. Over the summer, in conversation with my most trusted colleagues and many students, I have reflected on the Jesuit principles that have been a witness to truth, goodness and justice through countless conflicts and cultures over 450 years.

As your president, I want to articulate the very heart of those Jesuit principles which make Regis distinct and which are non-negotiable ways of proceeding as a university community.

The purpose of this letter is to state those principles clearly.



1. We believe in the goodness of creation and the sacred dignity of all individuals, each made in the image of God, called to grow with others into the freedom of love. We will not tolerate any speech or action that violates the dignity of any human person, and we will defend those targeted by the forces of bigotry and hate in our society and on our campus. The principle of free speech and the free exchange of ideas, an essential good and critical to the life of the University, must never be used as a front for hateful speech, symbolism, or violence, which have no place at a Jesuit, Catholic university.

2. We believe that we belong to each other, and that each person shares responsibility for the long, hard work of shaping an inclusive community where all can flourish. As a Jesuit, Catholic university, we embrace the discomfort of examining our own presumptions, failures, and shortcomings, and, in our engagements with one another, we prepare ourselves to be challenged, strengthened, and transformed.

3. We believe the University serves not only itself and its students but is called to be a force for justice and peace in society, above all, in defense of the poor and marginalized. For us, to seek the “greater glory of God” is to bear responsibility for the most pressing issues of our time. This means exploring not only the dynamics of race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender, sexuality, and culture, but also the social and structural implications of privilege, power, and social political order in America and the wider world.

I truly believe that the light of goodness and hope that burns in each of us is stronger than the forces of darkness and fear that would divide us. From the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to Mahatma Gandhi, to Jesus of Nazareth, we have seen again and again how the power of love and care for one another can overcome hate.

My advisors and I are currently working to articulate this year-long process of self-examination and discernment. As that process becomes clearer, I hope you will join me on this journey.

Sincerely,
John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.
President