

DRAFT PREAMBLE (Updated 10.1.25)

The mission of Lehigh University is to advance learning through the integration of teaching, research, and service to others. We best achieve this mission in an environment in which students, faculty and staff, and alumni **we all** feel valued, welcomed, and respected. We believe ~~that adopting the~~ [Chicago Statement on Free Expression](#) ("[Chicago Principles](#)") **as a set of principles we believe are moral imperative, believing it** essential to establish foundational guidance for our community. We see this statement as an expression of our shared commitment to academic freedom in the pursuit of the truth and our mission. By adopting this statement, we seek to empower our **[campus]** community, **including Lehigh University faculty, students and staff,** to debate and deliberate in an open and responsible manner that serves our institutional core values and mission.

The Chicago Statement, coupled with existing University policies which govern freedom of expression for our campus community, our Principles of Our Equitable Community, and our robust culture of inquiry, is adopted to promote open and respectful dialogue on campus, exploration of a **plurality** of thought, inquiry and expression as part of the Lehigh experience. It is expected that the Chicago Statement will be used as a **[moral principled]** guidepost for future decisions regarding freedom of expression within the University, and that it will help Lehigh, its leadership and governing body, ensure that open and robust dialogue continues within ~~the~~ **specific** limitations necessary to **[sustain the institution and its mission.]**
