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A Message from the Diversity Dean, Dr. Bernard Lopez

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Diversity & Inclusion at SKMC

Volume 1, Number 1, Spring 2016

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Office of Diversity & Inclusion, intended to reach our students, residents, and faculty and spread awareness about diversity initiatives at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University!



A Message from the Diversity Dean, Dr. Bernard Lopez

Diversity: richness in human differences

*Inclusion: active, intentional, and ongoing
engagement with diversity*

This inaugural newsletter on Diversity and Inclusion at SKMC is a compilation of current events as well as key activities that have occurred over the past two plus years since we undertook a new approach to the journey of being the most inclusive and diverse medical college. A special thanks to Keri Bergin (SKMC 2018) and Prachi Priyam (SKMC 2019) – they are responsible for taking on the daunting task of putting together this wonderful newsletter.

What should the focus of our D & I efforts be? Traditionally, it has been about the workforce. It has been about increasing percentages to match some benchmark and devoting resources to get the numbers right. Unfortunately, with this approach, it is often equated with affirmative action and brings along with it controversy and conflict. D & I, however, is not affirmative action. Ultimately, it is all about the patient. Who can argue against this? We all got into medicine to take the best care of the patients that we see. Workforce diversity is important, but not as the final outcome. Rather, a diverse workforce with varied ideas, experiences, and backgrounds allows us to come up with the best ways to treat the different patients we encounter. It is being educated and working in environments that cherish people from all walks of life, that celebrate differences, and promotes the exchange of ideas and experiences, all in the name of the patient.