## WINGATE

Wingate University's statement following the SCOTUS decision to end Affirmative Action

It's only been a few days since the Supreme Court ruled to eliminate affirmative action, a law put in place to facilitate equity and allow colleges and universities to consider race among other factors in the building of a diverse campus. The ruling was expected, yet the actual implications are still to be seen.

According to a statement from the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE) President Paulette Granberry Russell,

The rulings' impact on higher education broadly will be debated over the weeks to come, including an analysis of what is permissible for colleges and universities as they seek to create a racially diverse student body. While the rulings acknowledge that race affects the lived experiences of students, they nevertheless limit the ability of colleges and universities to consider race in shaping their campuses. https://www.nadohe.org/statements/president-statement-scotus-sffa-rulings

In this moment, it is essential that Wingate University speaks with a clear voice. We will continue to value and cultivate a diverse and interconnected campus community where everyone can thrive. While Wingate's admission process does not consider race, we continue to work hard to make our campus an ideal and highly coveted destination for individuals from diverse backgrounds. We want faculty, staff, students, administrators, alumni, parents and community members to feel a shared sense of safety, respect, value and recognition for their unique contributions while fully participating in the university community.

As families consider the impact of this decision on the lives of current and future Bulldogs, we pledge to be transparent and consistent in our efforts to facilitate a community where we all belong. Our commitment to a campus that reflects and respects diversity is as strong as ever. Please visit our DEIB website to see current initiatives underway to support a diverse campus community.

https://www.wingate.edu/life-at-wingate/diversity-equity-inclusion

Warmly,

Dana Murray Patterson, PhD Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer Wingate University

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