



affirming **EQUITY**
ensuring **INCLUSION**
empowering **ACTION**

Affirming Equity. Ensuring Inclusion. Empowering Action.

Top Line Messaging

Key Talking Points to Reiterate

Equal opportunity for all and an inclusive democracy is a universal value; the Supreme Court's decision is a direct attack on that shared principle and a threat to our multi-racial democracy and economy.

Make no mistake, this ruling is not an excuse or permission for universities and colleges to backslide on recent progress and return to an era of unchecked exclusion and segregation, which shut out generations of Latinx, Black, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI), and American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN) students from higher education and whose systemic legacy continues to shut out diverse students today.

Affirmative action in admissions has been the most powerful tool to address the lack of diversity on college campuses, as well as the centuries-long and ongoing legacy of racism and biases in higher education, but affirmative action alone was never intended to be the antidote to racism and we must do everything in our power to provide all students an equal opportunity to pursue higher education and ensure that universities do not discriminate against Latinx, Black, Asian American, NHPI, and AIAN students because of this ruling.

We must ask, what future do we want for ourselves and how do we get there? We have a moral and economic imperative to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to get a college education.

Latinx, Black, Asian American, NHPI, and AIAN students make up more than half of all students in our K-12 education system, and the repercussions of not developing their talent and

providing them with equal opportunity to pursue a college education will damage our economy and nation.

Policymakers and higher education leaders must remain steadfast in their commitment to close racial and ethnic gaps in college by implementing other powerful and comprehensive tools that affirm equal opportunities and level the playing field for Latinx, Black, Asian American, NHPI, and AIAN students in higher education.

We must undertake the hard work of dismantling barriers to opportunity by working in unison with historically marginalized communities of color and build partnerships with the communities most impacted by this decision.