We live in a world where ‘difference’ is the norm. To succeed in this complex and ‘flat’ world (as Thomas Friedman notes) Duke students must have comfort and familiarity in engaging with people quite different from themselves. Because of this, Duke University and the Division of Student Affairs, have made diversity a priority. Duke is committed to being a truly global university with students, faculty and staff reflective of the remarkable diversity of race, ethnicity, culture, religion, sexuality and ancestry in the United States and throughout the world. It is our privilege and our responsibility to prepare students to be world citizens and live in this world of difference.

By cultivating consciousness and appreciation of difference, developing competencies in intra- and interpersonal domains, building community and the ability to collaborate with people different from oneself, and addressing issues of public concern through dialogue and civic engagement, our students will be prepared for careers, community involvement and civic action in the United States and throughout the world.

In order for students to embrace the diversity of the Duke campus and the world that surrounds them, they must first understand and embrace their own sense of identity.
The Division of Student Affairs recognizes this and features a variety of identity centers including the Women’s Center, the Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture, the Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Life, the Multicultural Center, the International House and a variety of religious communities. We take great pride in supporting the ‘Big-D’ Duke community as well as the variety of sub-communities that comprise it. We are well aware, however, of the challenges associated with supporting numerous individual identity groups while fostering inter-group interaction and a collective Duke student identity. That said, through our approach at Duke, we can uniquely and simultaneously celebrate and advance student differences and commonalities.

The Division of Student Affairs is committed to exposing students to and engaging them in the spirit and practice of multiculturalism and inclusion so that we may prepare them for their future in this ever-changing landscape of people, places and ideas. Through our efforts, we will promote cultural diversity through collaborative student-initiated events, faculty and staff led dialogue, social interaction and experiential learning.

We invite you to learn about other giving opportunities in Student Affairs

➤ **Career Services**—The Career Services Initiative promotes awareness that students must develop ways to be adaptable, diversified and efficient to maintain the Duke competitive edge in a dynamic and increasingly complex world.

➤ **Leadership**—The Leadership Initiative is designed to provide opportunities for students to grow as leaders and to develop the skills and confidence to take on leadership roles while at Duke and beyond.

➤ **Student Engagement**—The Student Engagement Initiative is at the foundation for student programming and leadership exploration. This initiative will provide for continued opportunities to fund speakers, performers and presenters, to sponsor competitions, to showcase student talents and to ensure a lively and robust campus life.

➤ **Wellness**—The Wellness Initiative recognizes that academic success is related to good health, and that good physical and mental health habits developed during the undergraduate experience will contribute to a more balanced, purposeful and gratifying life in the years beyond Duke.

“Duke is boldly and tirelessly embracing each person for his or her differences, and when we see real progress in people, different parts of campus, or even how we ourselves have changed, it’s an incredibly satisfying feeling.”

—Tiffany Pao T’11