TO: Block I and Block II Students
College of Human Medicine

FROM: Marsha D. Rappley, M.D., Dean

DATE: August 2014

SUBJECT: STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY

Since its inception, the College of Human Medicine has been committed to admitting a heterogeneous class of students: men and women, young students with traditional academic backgrounds, older students entering a second career, students from diverse cultural backgrounds and students choosing different lifestyles. We continue to be proud of our commitment to a tradition of diversity and plurality. As professionals, you will be practicing in a multicultural world, a world which is not homogeneous in its belief systems and life styles. As students you will begin to recognize the value of such diversity and learn to appreciate the unique contributions of different groups and individuals with whom you share your educational experience.

Together, we seek to understand such differences not only by recognizing how we are alike as people, but also by respecting and rejoicing in the ways we are different. Intellectual curiosity and generosity in allowing individuals to hold different views encompasses not only academic issues, but also cultural beliefs and life experiences.

In view of our belief in the importance and value of diversity, let me state the College's policy:

No person within the College of Human Medicine may harm or harass, or threaten to harm or harass, another community member because of his or her gender, handicap, race, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or age. While the exchange of ideas and perspectives contributes to the College's validity, the right to freely express opinions is not a license to harass or intimidate.

As you move through your years at the College and beyond, I know that you will converse, study, and experience your education with members of your class who come from different backgrounds and varied life experiences.

Best of luck in your academic endeavors!