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A message from the Sr. Advisor to the President for Diversity and Director of the Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives

On June 25, 2015, President Simon issued a message on her website about events that are creating turbulence in our nation. I want to join President Simon by delivering this message to the campus and off-campus communities. I also stand in solidarity with our community during this difficult time. The title of the President’s message, “Dialogue key to creating community,” could not be more appropriate nor timely as this is the very premise that Project 60/50 was designed to achieve when it was created in 2014.

Project 60/50 promotes conversations about and broader understanding of civil and human rights. Conversations are the driving form of communication behind Project 60/50, allowing every participant an equal exchange of information, ideas, opinions, and questions. Learning from our conversations requires active listening as well as participation. Project 60/50 allows for the emergence of ideas, feelings, thoughts and memories affecting each of us as we explore the impact of history, and today’s events that have provoked pain and frustration.

America is a nation that continues to struggle with longstanding and deeply rooted issues around race. There is no simple solution to this or other civil and human rights issues we confront daily. But we must show courage by rising to the task, being persistent and intentional about the work that needs to be done to advance equality and equity for us all. For those that want to participate in a world community that allows all of us to live in places and interact in spaces that are respectful and supportive, let us come together and engage in authentic conversations where we can share our stories, give our opinions and learn from each other.

As we prepare for year two, Project 60/50 will stand in solidarity with its community. We hope you will join us to actively work to promote understanding, inclusivity and respect.