



University of
Kentucky

FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT
Eli Capilouto

Members of the University Community,

I am very pleased to let you know that Dr. Sonja Feist-Price has accepted the opportunity to be the University of Kentucky's Vice President for Institutional Diversity.

Dr. Feist-Price brings a wealth of personal and professional experience to this essential work, along with decades-long and heart-felt commitment to our University's success. Having served on the faculty of our College of Education and embracing challenging responsibilities across a wide spectrum of administrative roles, she possesses the right combination of credentials, experiences, skills, and personal relationships necessary to help lead us forward to an even more welcoming and diverse campus.

We all owe a substantial debt of gratitude to Interim Vice President Terry Allen for his leadership over the last two years, defined always by thoughtful stewardship, compassion for others, commitment to place, and tireless effort. We are indebted to him for this most recent work, but also for his admirable record of service to our University across so many years.

My thanks, also, to the members of the Search Committee for their diligence and to College of Public Health Dean Donna Arnett for her thoughtful leadership as chair.

Dr. Feist-Price will assume her new responsibilities Monday, March 20.

This is a challenging moment for our community. Our national dialogue remains caustic across the entirety of the political spectrum; and too often results in the corrosive language of "us versus them" and acts of disrespect, disregard, and malice. Within this maelstrom, we must resolve to focus our energies and efforts on what we can control: heeding the noble call to build a welcoming and secure space where everyone is free to be intentional in expressing their identity and in expressing their personal, religious, and political views — always without fear of repercussion. Let us resolve, too, that our every encounter — in our classrooms, conference rooms, and coffee shops — is defined by our sturdy and steady commitment to mutual respect and our inexhaustible search for mutual understanding. Let us embrace the considerable and essential lessons we individually and collectively derive from living and learning in our University's rich mosaic.

As we rightly celebrate what we uniquely have to offer to the lives and learning of others, we also must be mindful that we have much to learn from others. In tending this field of compassion and acceptance, we must seed every corner of our campus a willingness to engage in constructive dialogue with one another across every demographic, religious, and political boundary. It is from that work that the campus we seek will ultimately bloom.

We can do so because our campus is big enough to encompass all of us — of every race, origin, identity, religion, or political perspective. Our campus can be made that big; and whatever divides us can be made that small.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Feist-Price to her new role.

Eli Capilouto
President

If you are a supervisor, please communicate this information to all of your staff, especially those without computer access.

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BUILDING COMMUNITY

