



Connecting Past and Future.

Dear Vanderbilt Community,

On Saturday, July 17, the city of Nashville formally [dedicated Rep. John Lewis Way](#), the former Fifth Avenue. This renaming took place a year after the legendary civil rights leader passed away at the age of 80. I have always imagined the early civil rights leaders as foot soldiers for racial justice and freedom in that many were killed or injured on those battlefields for justice—Birmingham, Selma, and even in Nashville, Tennessee. Historians detail Nashville’s role as the intellectual center of the civil rights movement. This designation was due to the efforts of many, but clearly is deeply connected to the phenomenal training and work of Reverend James Lawson.



This Saturday’s gathering to celebrate the unveiling of the sign for John Lewis Way reflected the modern civil rights movement in that it was multicultural, multiethnic, multicolored and multigenerational. As I prepared to participate in the march from the unveiling site, I witnessed a sea of diversity, which caused a warm sense of optimism to flood over me. We need moments like this to bolster our resolve and to keep us on the road for social/racial justice and freedom.

The mile-long march down John Lewis Way ended at the Ryman Auditorium, and there, a number of civil rights leaders, politicians, and HBCU leaders offered personal stories and reflections on what John Lewis and Reverend Lawson meant to Nashville, then and now.

Vanderbilt was present at the culmination of the march, represented by Chancellor Daniel Diermeier and others who offered their impressions on John Lewis and his transformative life. There was no more important message delivered than the one delivered by Reverend Lawson. His was a clarion call not only to acknowledge the past, but also to challenge us to do more to address the attacks on voting rights and other current challenges to the sanctity and stability of our democracy.

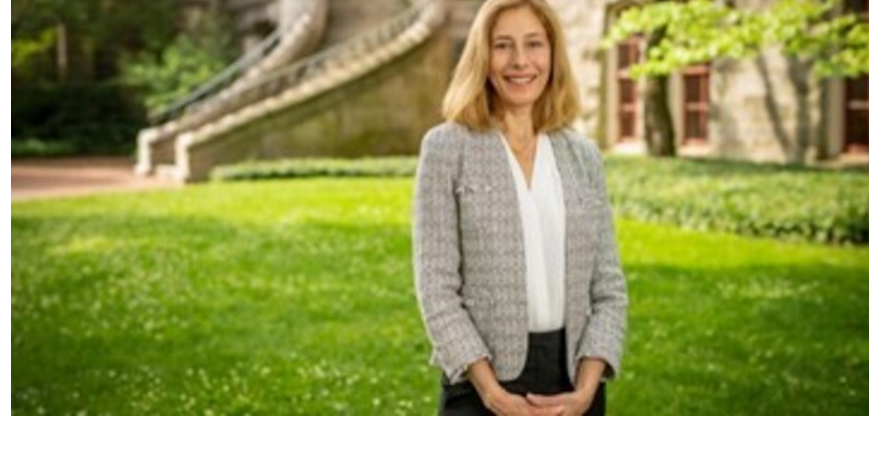
It was a long day, but the messages delivered that day will serve to fuel our action on equity, diversity and inclusion in the months and years to come.

André L. Churchwell, MD
Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer



Becoming a more diverse and inclusive Vanderbilt

Chancellor Daniel Diermeier and Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion André L. Churchwell reflect on the one-year anniversary of the university’s pledge to accelerate its work to make Vanderbilt a more diverse and inclusive community in which every member can thrive. [Read More +](#)



C. Cybele Raver discusses her aspirations as Vanderbilt’s new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs

Cybele Raver, an esteemed developmental psychologist who began her tenure as Vanderbilt’s provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs on July 1, discusses her path in higher education leadership and her aspirations to leverage the university’s strengths to help solve the major challenges of today and those facing future generations. [Read More +](#)



Belinda 'Otukolo Saltiban named associate vice chancellor for equity, diversity and inclusion

Belinda 'Otukolo Saltiban, a seasoned higher education professional with extensive experience leading diversity and inclusion efforts in support of professional development and student success, has been named associate vice chancellor for equity, diversity and inclusion at Vanderbilt University. [Read More +](#)



New Multicultural Community Space to open on campus this fall

A new community space for multicultural student organizations and their leaders to gather will open in Vanderbilt’s West End Neighborhood this fall, the Office of the Dean of Students and the Student Center for Social Justice and Identity have announced. [Read More +](#)



Vanderbilt joins peer group studying legacies of slavery and racial injustice

Vanderbilt University has become the newest member of the Universities Studying Slavery consortium as part of its reinvigorated commitment to confront racial injustice while working toward a more inclusive and welcoming campus community. [Read More +](#)



Interest session for new Jewish Employee Affinity Group

Vanderbilt launched a new [Jewish EAG](#) on June 29. This EAG is open to all faculty, staff, and postdoctoral scholars. To get involved, contact Jinexa Rivera at jinexa.rivera@vanderbilt.edu.



Get Connected: Upcoming Events

[7/22: Inclusive Book Group: 'Black Bottom Saints'](#)

[7/27: Women's Center salary negotiation workshop](#)

[8/4: Inclusive Book Group: 'When Breath Becomes Air'](#)

Continuing the Conversation



[WATCH: Vanderbilt faculty share importance of Juneteenth](#)



[WATCH: Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in Nashville: An Update](#)

'DORES IN DIALOGUE

[WATCH: 'Dores in Dialogue: A Conversation on Bostock v. Clayton County and the Rise of Anti-LGBTQIA+ Legislation](#)

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