



## Everyone is Awesome.

During this global pandemic, I have re-engaged with my hobby of LEGO® building. So, from time to time, I browse the various building sets that are available. For Pride Month, LEGO® released a newly designed set called “Everyone is Awesome.” I think the set is amazing, and I am looking forward to building it with my team in the Provost’s Office for Inclusive Excellence. However, the message conveyed by the set is the most powerful element to me. Everyone is awesome. Everyone is connected. Everyone belongs. Everyone matters.



I lead an outstanding team that demonstrates that message. The Provost’s Office for Inclusive Excellence engages with the Vanderbilt community to provide educational opportunities on topics related to inclusion, diversity, equity and access (IDEA). We also advance Vanderbilt’s efforts to build and sustain a culture of inclusion and belonging. We create a brave space for our community to grow in its understanding. Whether through our Identity Centers or our Identity Initiatives, we create opportunities to connect with our Vanderbilt community to empower their success in research, teaching, learning and professional development.

Thank you for engaging with this issue of "The Inclusive Connector." I hope it inspires you to make a connection across identities.

William H. Robinson, Ph.D.  
Vice Provost for Academic Advancement and  
Executive Director, Provost’s Office for Inclusive Excellence



### Vanderbilt mentor and campus leader Frank E. Dobson to return to his alma mater

After more than 15 years as a beloved campus mentor and leader at The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons, Frank E. Dobson Jr. is returning to his alma mater, Bowling Green State University. He will leave his role as associate dean of The Ingram Commons in mid-June. [Read More +](#)



### Faculty share importance of Juneteenth; events hosted throughout the week

Leading up to Vanderbilt’s annual observance of Juneteenth, Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion André L. Churchwell hosted a discussion with the Reverend James M. Lawson Professor of History Dennis C. Dickerson and Associate Professor of History Brandon Byrd about this important date in history. [Read More +](#)



### A message from university leaders about supporting our Jewish community

As One Vanderbilt, we must stand with each and every member of our Jewish community, write Chancellor Daniel Diermeier, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Susan R. Wente and Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion André Churchwell in a message to the Vanderbilt community. [Read More +](#)



### Vanderbilt to conduct studies on maternal health disparities and the impact of COVID-19 on the college choices of Black students

Vanderbilt will soon conduct two studies regarding educational and maternal health disparities within the Black community. [The first study](#) will explore the factors that impact the college choices of Black students and how inequities in the selection process have been exacerbated by the pandemic. [The second study](#) will assess the differences in labor progress and care among Black and white women and the disparity in cesarean births.



### Vanderbilt to use \$7.3 million in federal coronavirus relief to support students

Vanderbilt University continues to support students who have demonstrated need and are facing significant financial challenges due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. [Read More +](#)



### Vanderbilt Osher Lifelong Learning Institute announces summer courses

The rise of Black women’s political participation, a study of short stories by prominent and less-familiar authors, and the history of photography are among the classes offered online this summer by Vanderbilt’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. [Read More +](#)



### Get Connected: Upcoming Events

[3/30-7/28: Employee Learning and Engagement workshops for staff](#)

[6/15-18: Juneteenth Festivities](#)

[6/15: Taking PRIDE in Athletics: LGBTQI Perspectives on Sports](#)

[6/16: VI4 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Symposium 2021](#)

[6/17: VKC Community Lecture: "Learning How Children on the Autism Spectrum Process Sensory Information"](#)

[6/17: La Hora del Cocktail with VAHLA](#)

[6/19: Juneteenth Jazz and Art Live Experience](#)

[6/19: #OneTransaction to Close the Racial Wealth Gap](#)

[6/22: LAVA 'Dores in Dialogue](#)

[6/29: Commodore Classroom: Mental Health and Social Well-Being During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

### Continuing the Conversation



[WATCH: This Moment in America Panel Discussion](#)



[WATCH: This Moment in America II: Violence against Asian Americans and Asians through the Lens of History and Racial Injustice Panel Discussion](#)



[WATCH: 'The Autistics' Roundtable Webinar: Autism + Disability on Screen](#)

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