



We are all connected.

Dear Vanderbilt community,

Welcome to the first issue of “The Inclusive Connector,” a monthly newsletter dedicated to highlighting the numerous efforts our university is making toward creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all. We want to offer you an avenue to connect with activities in both of our offices, as well as efforts from our key partners in the equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) space—important initiatives, lectures, programs and upcoming events. Some months, we will use this medium to offer remarks on happenings solely on our campus or the world at large. Other months, this newsletter will serve to outline events and programs. We hope that creating such a newsletter will keep you informed of Vanderbilt’s continued efforts to create a more welcoming and inclusive campus.



Many factors have led to the creation of this newsletter, but important societal events that reflect social inequities and racial injustices—from the deaths of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and so many other African Americans, to the recent brutal violence perpetrated on Asians and Asian Americans in cities across the nation—have served as additional catalysts to redouble our efforts. These heinous crimes are counter to the values of a civil and educated society as well as those of a university committed to learning, discovery and aspirations to reflect the best in the human experience. We cannot tolerate or let such acts go without acknowledging and affirming that they have no place at our university or the world at large.

We recognize that as we strive for progress and purpose in our commitment to EDI, we at times will fall short, but note it is our charge to press on in these matters. Our campus has become a growing, vibrant, diverse community, and we know that we are connected as a Vanderbilt family. Our ultimate goals are to recognize the value of our diversity, include it in everything we do and unceasingly challenge ourselves to do more to strengthen our connection.

Sincerely,

André L. Churchwell, M.D.
Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer

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



Provost Susan R. Wente receives Mary Jane Werthan Award

Provost Susan R. Wente is among five members of the Vanderbilt community who were honored by the Margaret Cuninggim Women’s Center. [Read More +](#)



Dixie Place renamed in honor of Vanderbilt surgical pioneer Vivien Thomas

A Vanderbilt University School of Medicine student-led effort has led to Dixie Place being renamed Vivien Thomas Way. [Read More +](#)



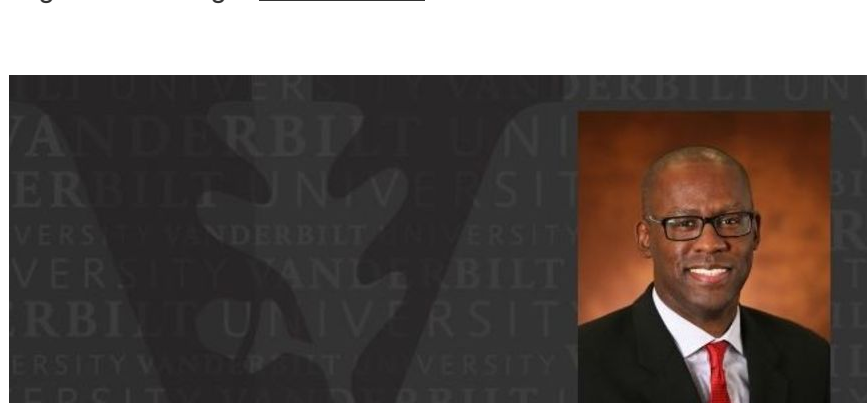
University releases statements on supporting our community in trying times

Vanderbilt issued messages recognizing how [recent violent attacks on Asians and Asian Americans](#) and the [outcome of the Derek Chauvin trial](#) have deeply affected members of our community.



The Rev. James Lawson receives NAACP Chairman’s Award for integral contributions to racial justice

The Rev. James Lawson, a civil rights icon and Distinguished University Professor, Emeritus, has received the prestigious NAACP Chairman’s Award, which recognizes individuals who demonstrate exemplary public service and use their distinct platforms to create agents of change. [Read More +](#)



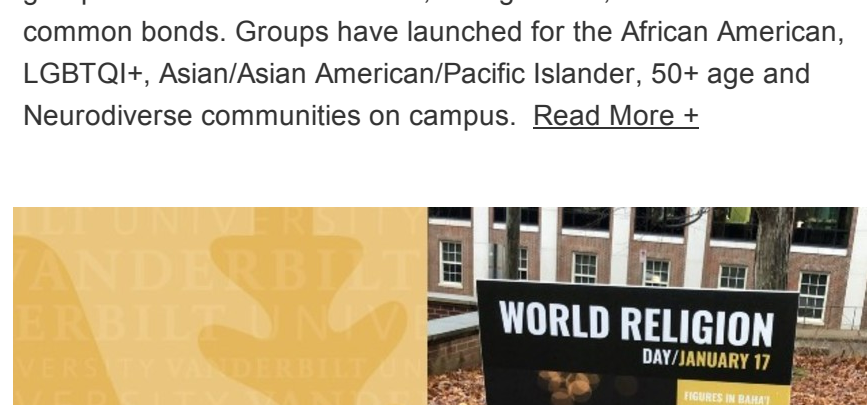
Rucker named Vanderbilt University’s chief human resources officer

Cleo D. Rucker, who has worked over the past decade to build a strong workplace culture, support employee growth and meet organizational goals at Vanderbilt University, has been promoted to the new position of chief human resources officer. [Read More +](#)



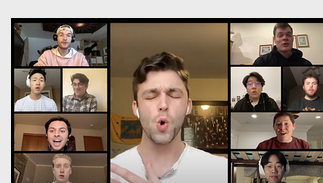
Vanderbilt launches Employee Affinity Groups for marginalized communities on campus

Employee Affinity Groups (EAGs) are employee-led and -facilitated groups formed around interests, backgrounds, identities and common bonds. Groups have launched for the African American, LGBTQI+, Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander, 50+ age and Neurodiverse communities on campus. [Read More +](#)



Heritage Month Project celebrates diversity of Vanderbilt community

The Office for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and the University Staff Advisory Council have partnered on an initiative to celebrate the myriad cultures, identities and voices that comprise the Vanderbilt community. [Read More +](#)



Get Connected: Upcoming Events

4/21-5/31: Ibrahim Mahama’s [Leaves of Grass 2012-2021](#) art exhibit at Fisk University.

4/28: [Are We Closing the Race/Ethnicity Gap in ASD Identification and Outcome?](#)

5/5: Inclusive Book Group discussion of Madeline Miller’s [Circe](#)

5/12: Screening of [Far East Deep South](#), Part 3 of Asian and Asian Realities: Racism, Hate, Resilience and Solidarity series

5/19: “The Summit: Advancing Inclusion and Diversity in the Workplace”

Continuing the Conversation

[WATCH: Racial Justice, Freedom and Activism in Nashville and Beyond: Then and Now](#)

[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 Justice Panel Discussion](#)

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

[WATCH: 2021 Vanderbilt Law School’s Dean’s Lecture Series on Race and Discrimination](#)

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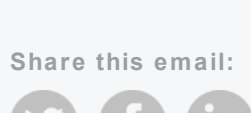
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