



Texts & Technology Statement on Diversity and Intolerance

UCF's Creed proclaims, "I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual." In 1992, President Hitt established a drive to "become more inclusive and diverse" among his five goals for the university. This year, UCF was a proud recipient of the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity [HEED] Award," based on our exemplary diversity and inclusion initiatives that focus on all aspects of diversity, including gender, race, ethnicity, veterans, people with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ community."

We, the faculty of the Texts and Technology PhD program, affirm these values and emphatically condemn all acts of domination and exclusion, including racism, sexism, ableism, classism, xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia, and Islamophobia. We stand by our colleagues and students who have been, or may be, targeted on the basis of such discrimination.

We are living in a political moment marked by the legitimization of bigotry, hate, and misinformation. As scholars and teachers in the arts and humanities, we understand the power of words and images, and believe our research and teaching can be a source of meaning and resilience at this time of misunderstanding and fear. It makes us discerning about language, ideology, mass media and their effects. It drives us to question ourselves and to empathize with diverse identities. And it helps us compose a better world.

We reaffirm our commitment to the pursuit of knowledge, critical insight, and shared understanding by affirming what we value. We value social justice, diversity, and open inquiry. We value freedom of protest and the press, equal protection under the law, and democratic institutions. We stand together with all vulnerable members of the campus community.

-Adapted from a statement by the University of Maryland English Department