A Time to Persevere

Dear Vanderbilt community,

I'm exhausted. Literally exhausted. I'm a woman. I'm Black. I'm in a pandemic. The cost of living is outrageous. I have fertility issues. I'm Black. I'm a woman. I'm exhausted. And now it is time to gear up for a new semester.

This summer has been intense, and as much as I wanted and needed a mental break from last academic year, it has been impossible to fathom with so much continuously happening around us. And as August quickly approaches, I find myself wondering if I have the mental capacity for our students. Gone are the days of pushing my mental health to the back burner. In this day, it must be a priority for us, all and we must take the time to assess and address our own before we ask this of our students.

As a higher ed professional for 20 years and five institutions, I have had to come to the understanding that I am more beneficial to my community when I show up authentic and present. I'm better when I am open and honest about my own feelings, even my fears. Our students have now endured unimaginable events that as a country we are still understanding. We need to give ourselves grace. (*Exhale*)

Moving into this new year, I'm challenging myself, and I invite you to do the same. I am exhausted, but so are our students. I'm a member of several marginalized communities and so are our students. I bring my personal self to my work, and so do our students when they approach us. My mom was

exhausted. My grandmother was exhausted. My ancestors were exhausted. My community is exhausted. Your community is exhausted.

But we are surviving. I have endured unspeakable pain that I didn't think I would surpass. But I did. But you did. But they did. And we are. (*Exhale*)

As we move into this new semester, remember we are all stronger than we think. As the Vanderbilt community, we are the change agents we seek. We have the power to create change. We are the doers and thinkers of the world. We are the staff that will lead the next generation, so the tenacity we expect from our students is the tenacity we instill.

Be well,
Veleashia Byrd
Associate Director of the Black Cultural Center

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

International Education Week

Engaged • Resilient • Global

Event and program submission requests for International Education Week 2022

The Office for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and International Student and Scholar Services will collaborate to curate weeklong events for International Education Week. Events will take place from Nov. 9 to 18, and the theme will be Global Citizen. The Office for EDI and ISSS would like to invite campus partners to join the celebration and reflect on what it means to be a global citizen. If interested in participating or proposing program ideas, please complete this form by **Sept. 15**.

For any questions or concerns, please contact Yu Wu in the Office for EDI or Andrea Pietrzyk in ISSS. Read More +

Get Connected: Upcoming Events

6/13-8/30: Art Exhibition — "The Water-Carrier Died"

8/1: Jumpstart Conference to explore intersection of racial justice work, education research

8/2: HR Employee Learning and Engagement offers peer-to-peer learning opportunity for managers and leaders

Unity Project launches summer "Unity Talks" conversation series

Vanderbilt Farmers' Market returns to Medical Center Plaza on Thursdays

Diermeier speaks at Aspen Ideas Festival, emphasizes importance of free expression at universities

Chancellor Daniel Diermeier participated in a conversation titled "The Path Forward for Academic Freedom in Higher Ed" as part of the world-renowned Aspen Ideas Festival on June 29. The panel set out to explore the "twin ideals of open inquiry and free expression" as well as higher education's unique role in advancing these forces. Read More +

Reinhart-King named senior associate dean for research in School of Engineering

Cynthia Reinhart-King, Cornelius Vanderbilt Chair and professor of biomedical engineering, has been named senior associate dean for research in the Vanderbilt School of Engineering. Read More +

Be a First Friend to an international student

HR Employee Learning & Engagement experiences for 2022

Wednesdays: For faculty and staff — Mindful Stretch Break

For employees and staff — Access televideo counseling services

Continuing the Conversation

WATCH: Facts and Evidence: Navigating the Gun Debate in America

WATCH: Vanderbilt Celebrates Juneteenth

Vanderbilt, UNC and Duke nurse-midwives join forces to reduce Black maternal health risks

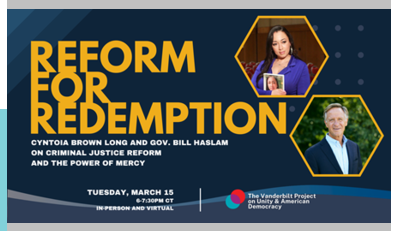
Nurse-midwives and educators from three prominent research universities have teamed up to improve pregnancy outcomes in Black communities by providing specialized training for doulas, persons who support birthing mothers and families through the entire process of childbirth. Read More +

First two episodes of 'Unity Talks' summer series now available

The first two episodes of the Vanderbilt Project on Unity and American Democracy's "Unity Talks" series are now available for viewing. In episode one, College of Arts and Science Dean John Geer speaks with *New York Times* national political correspondent Jonathan Martin, and in episode two, former Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam speaks with Yuval Levin, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. Read More +

WATCH: The War in Ukraine and the Role of Education with Anna Novosad

WATCH: Understanding the Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty: How Economic Research Can Inform Policy



WATCH: Reform for Redemption: Cyntoia Brown Long and Gov. Bill Haslam call for criminal justice reform

WATCH: This Moment in America: How to Be an Ally and Its Meaning in a Time of Social Justice

Resources

Heritage Month

Workshops

Connect With Us

Medical Scientist Training Program students receive P.E.O. Scholar Awards

Margaret Axelrod, Rachel Brown and Simone Herzberg, aspiring physician-scientists in Vanderbilt's Medical Scientist Training Program, are among this year's recipients of highly competitive P.E.O. Scholar Awards. Recipients of the $20,000 awards are women from the U.S. and Canada pursuing doctoral-level degrees who have demonstrated their ability to make significant contributions in their chosen fields. Read More +

Accessible pathway from 21st Avenue, Wesley Place Garage updated due to work at OGSM construction site

The Owen Graduate School of Management renovation and addition project, set to open for the 2022–23 academic year, will expand its site borders to complete the remainder of the work. Beginning Monday, July 11, the accessible pathway from 21st Avenue and Wesley Place Garage will change. Read More +

Human Resources increases on-campus presence

Human Resources will have an increased on-campus presence at its front desk beginning Monday, July 18. The office is in the Baker Building, 10th floor. Read More +

Vanderbilt University qualifies as eligible employer for Public Sector Student Loan Forgiveness

The U.S. Department of Education recently announced a temporary period during which borrowers may receive credit for payments that previously did not qualify for Public Sector Loan Forgiveness. As a 501(c)3 institution, Vanderbilt University is an eligible employer, allowing employees to qualify for PSLF. Read More +

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