



LINDENWOOD
UNIVERSITY

March 25, 2021

Dear Sarahlinda Twente, Cece Connelly, Betsy Aldrich, Sienna Cletcher, Andre Tompkins, Leigh Manzer, Edward Hansford, Selena Martin, and Dr. Heather Brown-Hudson,

We have received and reviewed your letter dated March 19, 2021 and thank you for sending the same. Lindenwood fully supports the Center for Diversity and Inclusion and remains committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in no uncertain terms. Regarding your specific questions about the CDI coordinator position, Lindenwood created this position within the last fifteen months. Moving forward, we believe there is an opportunity to elevate this role by transforming it into the Chief Diversity Officer/Director for Center for Diversity and Inclusion position. This new position will assist in leading the strategic diversity initiatives for Lindenwood. Additionally, this position will have the important role of working with the Title IX Coordinator in assisting with complaints of discrimination, harassment and/or retaliation and managing the day-to-day operations of the CDI.

Collaboration among students, faculty, staff, and their respective councils is necessary to further DEI initiatives and efforts across campus. When everyone participates in these efforts, we are more likely to fully realize their success and benefits.

The CDI is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and can be reached outside of those hours at diversity@lindenwood.edu. It continues to be a resource for our students, faculty, and staff. Our CDI Assistant and our community engagement employees staff the office daily and are available to assist our community. Ms. Jessica Bucci continues to oversee these employees and, Ms. Kelly Moyich is available to assist with any project, resource, or issue that may arise.

An employee's abrupt departure can create a disruption in service to our students, faculty, and staff. Like you, we are disappointed that this occurred without notice. Last week, Ms. Moyich and Ms. Bucci met with the CDI staff and assured them that Lindenwood is committed to finishing the academic year in the CDI strong despite this departure. We intend to continue with any scheduled training and assist students with on-going projects. If you need resources, you can contact diversity@lindenwood.edu or kmoyich@lindenwood.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Whittum", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Terry Whittum
Sr. Vice President DEMSE
Lindenwood University

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Ms. Kelly Moyich
Associate Vice President, SACEI
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