

DENVER WALKER

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

I believe in using my unearned privilege to fight for those who have been silenced unfairly. My vocation as a white, middle class, hetero-normative, healthy human is to be a crusader for marginalized communities. It is my goal to strive for equity and end discrimination.

As an educator, I am able to encourage my students and colleagues to work towards equity. In my courses, My syllabi will clearly state that my classroom is an inclusive space. Students and colleagues in this safe space will be confident that they will not be subjected to discrimination, harassment or criticism based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or disability. I will also be available during office hours or by email to discuss any problems a student might have with this policy, or for a student who is unintentionally affected by discrimination in my courses.

My courses will also be designed to bring to light composers and performers who have been pushed to the shadows because of gender, sexual orientation, religion or race. I will include less Western-European focus in my courses, discuss cultural appropriation in music, and focus heavily on women. I will foster empathy and champion my students to fight for the end of discrimination.

Personally, I choose to seek out entertainment that recognizes diversity. I prefer movies with many female actors of different races. I support organizations that promote diversity, and boycott those that do not. My group of friends is diverse and I celebrate that heartily. The campaign to end discrimination begins on the personal level. After growing up in a predominately white, rural area, I cherish the diversity I am fortunate to be a part of and foster.