



Dear Faculty, Residents, Staff, and Students,

With the announcement yesterday of the Supreme Court's decision on affirmative action and today's decision adversely impacting the LGBTQ+ community, I want to reassure you that the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine (Rowan-Virtua SOM) community will continue our unwavering commitment to our mission to produce clinically skillful, compassionate, and culturally competent diverse physicians. As the former Admissions Committee Chair, I know Rowan-Virtua SOM has a strong history of recruiting and graduating diverse students to serve the State of New Jersey and beyond. Further, it is well established in the research that having a diverse health profession workforce improves patient care, especially in marginalized communities, and is necessary for the elimination of health disparities.

In anticipation of this decision, key administrators have been meeting to review our processes and policies to ensure we uphold the law, yet persist with our mission. Moving forward, we will consult with local and national stakeholders as well as legal counsel to determine a course ahead. I will keep the campus community informed of our progress.

SOM stands with our BIPOC and LGBTQ+ students, faculty, and staff. We see you. We hear you. We will continue to support you.

While the decision yesterday is disappointing, it should serve as a call to action to become more engaged with the work of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging with fortitude through our well-established DEI Committee, its subcommittees, Admissions Committee, faculty meetings, and your spheres of influence. It also emphasizes the importance of marginalized communities working together in order to realize the ideals of this country. I am proud of what we have accomplished as a school and I am confident of our continued progress. I value all of your ideas, guidance and passion as we move our mission forward.

Respectfully,

Richard T. Jermyn, DO
Interim Dean, Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine

