Ohio University
Affirmative Action Policy

It is the policy of Ohio University that there shall be no discrimination against any individual in educational or employment opportunities because of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnicity, ancestry, age, gender identity or expression, mental or physical disability, or military veteran status. There also shall be no discrimination because of age except in compliance with requirements of retirement plans or state and federal laws and guidelines. Discrimination on the basis of age or sex or disability will be prohibited except where specific age, sex, or physical requirements constitute a bona fide occupational qualification (BFOQ) necessary to proper and efficient performance. The University maintains a vigorous affirmative action program in order to promote equal employment opportunities and to ensure non-discrimination in all educational programs and activities. All programs which implement this policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Ohio University accepts the important distinction between affirmative action and equal opportunity. Equal opportunity assumes that the concept of merit based solely upon a person’s perceived ability to perform job duties will exclusively govern all personnel decisions. While committed to honoring equal opportunity, OHIO also pledges to take direct and affirmative action to recruit, employ, and promote members of groups previously excluded for consideration.* The assertion of this distinction gives impetus to the institution’s renewed search for approaches and programs designed to attain our goals and objectives. This is being done in recognition that benign neutrality in employment practices tends to perpetuate the status quo.

OHIO’s educational mission includes fostering a climate that represents and embraces the inclusion of persons of all backgrounds, thus enhancing the University’s ability to provide its students and employees with the experiences necessary to successfully thrive and achieve in an increasingly diverse and complex society. We are committed to cultural pluralism in the belief that this is beneficial to all people and essential in strengthening the fabric of the global community. This commitment demands that we provide opportunities and access for people who have been denied educational justice.

The responsibility of overseeing the University’s compliance with affirmative action requirements has been delegated by the President of the University to the Executive Director for Institutional Equity. Every member of the University community, however, is charged with the responsibility for its realization.

Any questions or comments regarding this policy should be communicated to:

Dianne Bouvier, Ph.D.
Interim Executive Director
Title IX Coordinator and ADA/504 Coordinator
Office for Institutional Equity
101 Crewson House
(740) 593-9132

Roderick J. McDavis, President

August 20, 2014

*"Affirmative Action groups or categories" refers to the following individuals: persons who are women; are Hispanic/Latino, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific-Islander, or identify as having two or more races; are covered veterans; and/or have a physical or mental disability.