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NATIONAL COLLEGIATE
CHORAL ORGANIZATION

Thursday, May 27, 2021

President's Update: Progress

Dear <<First Name>>,

It is my honor as President of the National Collegiate Choral Organization to report to you today about significant actions taken yesterday at our special meeting of the [NCCO National Board](#).

National Board Actions

Effective immediately, our National Board has voted overwhelmingly to approve the creation of our first-ever NCCO [vision and mission statements](#). They are copied in full below and at the link provided.

The Board has also voted:

- to create a new **Mission and Vision in Governance Committee**, who will work to ensure that the actions, structures, and activities of NCCO consistently serve and embody the mission and vision of the organization, including supporting our efforts in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion;
- to establish a new *ex officio*, non-voting member of the Executive Board, the **Director of Affinity Groups**;
- to charge this new committee and new director to form **NCCO Affinity Groups**, which will affirm the importance of embracing our complex web of identities and seek to honor those identities by serving as brave and safe spaces for our members to seek mentorship,

- community, and sustaining professional development; and
- to adopt language in our Constitution which explicitly states our **commitment to non-discrimination and inclusivity**.

Our Mission and Vision in Governance Committee will be appointed and begin their work immediately, which will first entail soliciting and evaluating applications for the new Director of Affinity Groups. It is our hope to appoint this new Director by August 1st, in time to begin the process of creating NCCO Affinity Groups before our Fall conference.

NCCO9: Our Ninth National Conference

Speaking of the conference, **our NCCO9 conference website will officially launch on Tuesday, June 1st**. It will include information on our conference dates, location, hosts, headliners, and more including our conference theme, ***Building Beloved Community***, which is rooted in and a direct outcome of our work on crafting our mission and vision.

And... it's going to be a historic first. You'll see why on Tuesday...!

We encourage you to visit our website on or after June 1st to see how you can participate in our ***fully in-person conference*** by submitting your applications for **panel participation, interest sessions, poster sessions, and choral performance videos**. Applications will be due by July 15th.

Gratitude

None of these actions could have happened without the dedicated service of the [NCCO Mission, Vision & Principles Task Force](#). Please join me in thanking the chair, **Vice President Elizabeth Swanson**, and task force members **Rollo Dilworth, Jeffrey Douma, Kellori Dower, Mariana Farah, Katherine FitzGibbon, Michael McGaghie** and **Jace Saplan**. They truly are our "MVPs"!

Conclusion

As we near the end of an academic year like no other, I look back with amazement on all we have done. From innovation in the virtual chorus sphere to strategic changes in our organization and others, our choral world is being reshaped and reformed. We are doing the work of building beloved community, of forming right-relationships, and of centering care for one another in our work as choral artists and pedagogues.

Let's not slow down, let's not lose momentum, and let's keep our eyes on our personal and

professional north stars as we continue along this path of progress.

Thank you all for your work and the work still to come.



Dominick DiOrio, President

on behalf of the NCCO Executive Board

Miguel Ángel Felipe, *President-Elect*

Elizabeth Swanson, *Vice President*

Matthew Ferrell, *Treasurer*

Marie Bucoy-Calavan, *Secretary (on leave)*

Kellori Dower, *Acting Secretary (May 1-Aug 15)*

Mark Nabholz, *Chief Editor of Publications*

Our Vision

NCCO believes that singing together in post-secondary spaces can be a vital force for culturally responsive teaching and learning, one that connects us with each other, builds empathy, and inspires joy.

Our Mission

We believe that the choral field and the act of singing communally can have transformative effects on society.

- Therefore, we help our students build a lifelong connection to singing and other forms of artistic expression. We aspire toward a collaborative choral community that models the world we wish to see.

We recognize that the choral field has historically created divides between choral performance and education, between pre-professional and avocational choral study, and between types of post-secondary spaces.

- Therefore, we assert that all conductors are teachers, and we recognize that the choices we make in our post-secondary choral programs have the potential to influence the perspectives and practices of future generations of educators and singers.
- We commit to serving all educators and students engaged in the choral arts, whether they envision careers in music performance, music education, or wish to cultivate a lifelong connection with music.
- We embrace all post-secondary spaces, including research institutions, conservatories, liberal arts colleges, two-year and community colleges, and all organizations that foster continuing growth of students who wish to further their musical education.

We acknowledge that our profession has been a site of harm for many through our colonial ideals of repertoire, pedagogy,

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practices that foster the ongoing growth and transformation of our field.

- Therefore, we will work to uncover and understand the ways in which the post-secondary choral field has perpetuated harm.
- We will form and seek right-relationships with all members in the building of beloved community.
- We support the development of pedagogical strategies and curricula that respond to students' own cultural ways of knowing and doing.
- We provide resources for educators to program repertoire and cultivate aesthetics that reflect diverse cultures and lived experiences.
- We provide ongoing development for educators to focus on cultural consciousness through examining one's own cultural beliefs/perspectives, recognizing students for who they are and their cultural identity/assets, and building a capacity for cultural resilience in our spaces so that all singers are seen.

We celebrate an expansive and ever-evolving vision of choral excellence.

- Therefore, we cultivate repertoire, pedagogy, aesthetics, and perspectives that reflect our world and serve all students.

Approved by the NCCO National Board and effective May 26, 2021.

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