

Monday, August 15th, 2020

Dear Smitties:



The fall semester is upon us and we hope you are settling into a routine. For those of you who are new to Paul Smith's College, we hope that you are beginning to find that it feels like home.

Many of you have heard us speak about the importance of inclusion, diversity and creating a welcoming environment at Paul Smith's College. We do so often because we truly believe that diversity of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, economic background, geographic place, and all of the ways that we differ bring a range of thought and action that not only strengthens our community, but allows each of us to grow and live in our globally interconnected world.

It's important to recognize the value of inclusion and diversity, and to take that moment to get to know someone better. All of us are a part of the fabric of our College, and we are asking you to please do your part — to create a welcoming environment.

We have found that our community has an amazing potential for goodness, as well as the courage of our convictions to be a leader in inclusion and diversity efforts. However, we recognize that we still have work to do in this area. We want you to know that we are working hard to find new ways to support and create a diverse and inclusive community.

We are proud to announce that Paul Smith's College will have a diversity, equity and inclusion center, located in the Joan Weill Student Center. The goal is to create a safe space, no judgment zone – for our students, faculty, staff and members of the community. The center will open its doors in September.

Remember, when we stand up for one, we stand up for all with the spirit that has brought Smitties together for generations. That spirit bonds us together as we begin this new academic year.

You are welcome here. We're thrilled you chose Paul Smith's College. Have a great semester!

Sincerely,

The Global Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council