Personal Statement on Inclusive Excellence

I recognize that inclusive excellence is a "work-in-progress" endeavor in all facets of society, including education, business, healthcare, and our workplaces, and that each one of us has a critical role and responsibility to bring about transformation within our working environments and learning communities to promote equity, safety, and well-being for all. I oppose any language or action that attacks individuals or groups based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. Addressing systemic social ills will take collective, systemic action. This statement reflects my commitment to engage in actions needed to influence and help our campus to be welcoming and inclusive where everyone will achieve their full potential as lifelong learners and respected members of our campus community.

I am committed to working in collaboration with the campus community to identify, implement, and assess ways to improve educational experiences for all students. We must be committed to educating ourselves and each other about how to combat inequities and promote inclusion within our campus, colleges, and departments, to promote excellent learning experiences for all students we serve both near and far. We must commit to making these actions intentional and transparent within our campus, with our alumni and external stakeholders, and with the broader community to maximize impact on our current and future students and on enrollment and retention efforts. We should work together with our administrators, faculty, staff, students, and the public to hold us accountable for exemplifying a model university that reflects the values of inclusion that provides equal opportunities for excellent education and work environment where diversity, equity and inclusion are respected and celebrated every day.

Martonia Gaskill, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Education Academic Diversity Officer, Graduate Studies & Academic Outreach gaskillmc@unk.edu

April 20, 2023