

**TALKING POINTS**  
**ALL CHINA YOUTH FEDERATION**  
**University of Missouri, Columbia**

**GREETINGS** and welcome to the University of Missouri Columbia. We are happy that you are here and that we are able to join you for this program this morning.

I represent the Office of the Vice Provost for Minority Affairs, International Programs and Faculty Development. Our Mission is to promote and develop a diverse and inclusive academic environment by providing support and services to ensure optimal access, representation and vibrant participation of minority populations at MU; a global, intercultural perspective in all academic areas and outreach; and a faculty that is prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The line offices of the Vice Provost for Minority Affairs, International Programs and Faculty Development play a vital role in our mission objective.

**The Asian Affairs Center** - The creation of the MU Asian Affairs Center reflects the University's formal recognition of the cultural, strategic, and economic importance of the nations of the Pacific Rim and its commitment to coordinate and build upon MU's very substantial programming, university and alumni linkages, and research connections in the region

**Black Studies Program** - The central mission of the Black Studies Program is to train scholars to teach and research the World Black Experience by making available information and the analytical tools with which to study African people whether in the U.S., Africa, or throughout the Diaspora.

**Disability Services** - Coordinates services and accommodations for students with disabilities and acts as a resource for disability related information and guidance.

**The International Center** - The mission of the International Center is to promote international awareness, foster an appreciation for diversity, and help students understand their roles and responsibilities as world citizens. The Center demonstrates its commitment to these ideals by creating a supportive and collaborative office environment modeled on mutual respect and understanding, and by providing professional and responsive service to MU students, scholars, faculty and staff. The Center serves not only to strengthen and bridge international resources across the MU campus, but also to engage the local and regional community in international education.

**Intensive English Program** - The Intensive English Program provides international students the opportunity to sharpen their English language skills. Students can choose to enroll in the Intensive English Program or the English Language Support Program.

**Program for Excellence in Teaching (PET)** - PET offers a variety of services to assist instructors in accessing the research on student learning and in developing their teaching skills.

**Women Studies Program** - The Women Studies Program structures the changing body of research and writing about women, identifies sexist bias in traditional disciplines, and creates a community and classroom atmosphere as free as possible from sexist attitudes and behaviors.

**The European Union Center** - The mission of the European Union Center is to foster novel contacts and productive transatlantic partnerships through teaching, scholarly research, and outreach activities. In the tradition of land grant universities, the Center provides the education, knowledge and technology, service and support critical to a better understanding and interchange among the peoples of the European Union and the heartland.

#### **STATEMENT OF VALUES**

Our endeavor to fulfill our mission is guided by the University's overreaching mission as a land-grant institution. It is also, importantly guided by the Operating Principles adopted by our university.

The University of Missouri-Columbia, as the state's major land-grant university, honors the public trust placed in it and accepts the associated accountability to the people of Missouri for its stewardship of that trust. Our duty is to acquire, create, transmit, and preserve knowledge, and to promote understanding.

We the students, faculty, and staff of MU hold the following values to be the foundation of our identity as a community. We pledge ourselves to act, in the totality of our life together, in accord with these values.

#### **RESPECT**

Respect for one's self and for others is the foundation of honor and the basis of integrity. A hallmark of our community is respect—for the process by which we seek truths and for those who engage in that process. Such respect is essential for nurturing the free and open discourse, exploration, and creative expression that characterize a university. Respect results in dedication to individual as well as collective expressions of truth and honesty. Respect is demonstrated by a commitment to act ethically, to welcome difference, and to engage in open exchange about both ideas and decisions.

#### **RESPONSIBILITY**

A sense of responsibility requires careful reflection on one's moral obligations. Being responsible imposes the duty on us and our university to make decisions by acknowledging the context and considering consequences, both intended and unintended, of any course of action. Being responsible requires us to be thoughtful stewards of resources—accountable to ourselves, each other, and the publics we serve.

#### **DISCOVERY**

Learning requires trust in the process of discovery. Discovery often fractures existing world views and requires acceptance of uncertainty and ambiguity. Therefore, the university must support all its members in this life-long process that is both challenging and rewarding. As we seek greater understanding and wisdom, we also recognize that knowledge itself has boundaries—what we know is not all that is.

### EXCELLENCE

We aspire to an excellence which is approached through diligent effort, both individual and collective. Pursuing excellence means being satisfied with no less than the highest goals we can envision. Pursuing excellence involves being informed by regional, national, and global standards, as well as our personal expectations. We recognize and accept the sacrifices, risks, and responsibilities involved in pursuing excellence, and so we celebrate each other's successes. We commit ourselves to this process in an ethical and moral manner.

These statements are mere words until we integrate them as values in our individual lives and reflect them in our institutional policies and practices. We pledge ourselves to make them effective in the very fabric of our lives, our community, and all our relationships with others, thereby enhancing the development of individuals and the well-being of society.

**CLOSING:** Again, we are pleased that you could be here. I take great pride in being afforded the opportunity to extend this welcome. It is our hope that your stay and your studies here will be most productive and rewarding.

**THANK YOU**