

CONCORD
ACADEMY





“Be yourself; no base imitator of another, but your **best self**. Listen to the inward voice and bravely obey that.”



R.W. Emerson

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Ralph Waldo Emerson was a champion of individualism and a key figure in the Transcendentalism movement. In his most famous essay, *Self-Reliance*, Emerson urges us to follow our individual will and voice, and to be honest in our relationships with others. Emerson made his home in Concord for nearly 50 years, until his death in 1882.



We are a tight-knit community of passionate learners who thrive with the care and partnership of talented educators and our wide-as-you-can-dream curriculum. Concord Academy is a place where students love to learn, where creativity and trust are abundant natural resources, and where the history and literature of New England enrich us every day.

We are a coeducational, independent boarding and day school for students in grades 9–12 in historic Concord, Massachusetts.



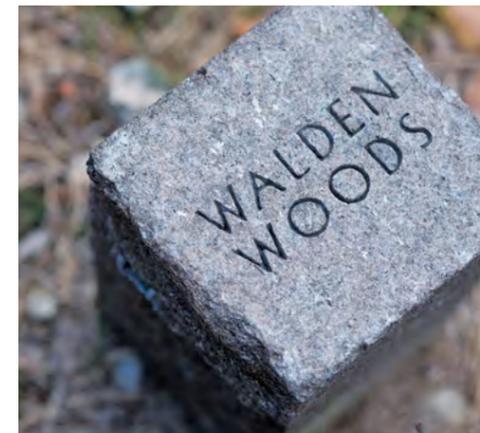
IN THE HEART OF CONCORD



You'll find our campus in the heart of Concord, a small town known for its prominent role in the Revolutionary War, as well as for being a stop on the Underground Railroad. Located 18 miles from Boston, our town takes pride in being both a cultural center and a thriving community.



Craving the big city? Hop on the MBTA commuter rail for the 45-minute ride into Boston. Many CA students commute to campus via rail from all over Greater Boston.



↑
During the mid-1800s, a number of prominent Transcendentalist writers made their home here, including Nathaniel Hawthorne and Henry David Thoreau.

THE VALUES THAT DEFINE US

Since our founding in 1922, the world has changed dramatically, yet our values have endured. Our spirit of individualism, fervent love of learning, and devotion to our community continue to define us—and will for years to come.



Over the years, hundreds of seniors have stood in the Chapel to share their stories of growth and learning with the CA community.



While we are a nondenominational school, the Elizabeth B. Hall Chapel is the heart and soul of Concord Academy. It's always open to students seeking a few moments of quiet reflection.





On campus and around town

When the tulips are in full bloom, students band together for Field Day, a recently revived CA tradition of healthy competition dating back to the 1970s. Among the highlights: a mini-marathon, three-legged race, dry-land canoe carrying, spikeball, and bean-bag toss. The day culminates in a friendly game of tug of war.

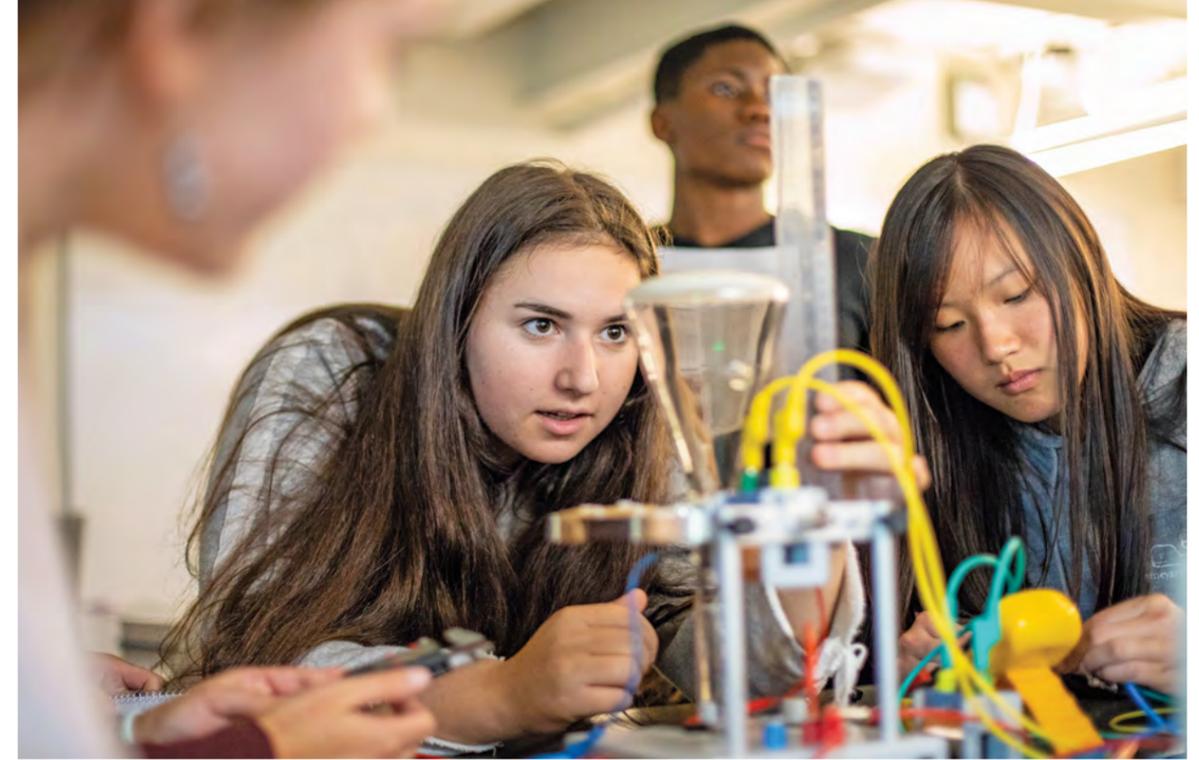


The CA campus runs along Main Street in the heart of Concord, just steps from a cluster of restaurants, bakeries, cafés, and specialty shops. It's a lively community dotted with museums, historic houses, and inspirational landmarks, including Walden Pond and Minute Man National Historical Park.

A CURRICULUM AS WIDE AS YOU CAN DREAM

With more than 200 courses across a broad spectrum of concentrations, there's something to pique nearly every interest and fuel every passion.

We encourage students to take risks and discover new interests—and for that reason, only courses completed after the first year are included in your GPA.



WHAT MAKES A POPOVER POP?

Whether you're mixing a vinaigrette, kneading bread, or heating water, cooking boils down to pure science. The Chemistry of Cooking course transforms students into culinary scientists as they explore basic chemical principles in the kitchen. Students roll up their sleeves to examine how food molecules are transformed through heating, fermenting, brining, acidifying, drying, and mixing ingredients. There's also an investigation into the role that certain chemical mixtures, such as foams, emulsions, and gels, play in taste and texture.

View our full course listing at CONCORDACADEMY.COM



GREEN SCREENS AND RED CARPETS

From screenwriting to directing to sound mixing, students explore all facets of filmmaking in The Feature Film Project. "It's a sprawling endeavor," says film teacher Justin Bull. "I know of no other high school in the country that produces a full-length feature film like we do." Past CA productions have garnered critical acclaim, including the sci-fi thriller *Merge*, which premiered at the 2016 SCI-FI-LONDON Film Festival.



THE WORLDVIEW OF OUR CHANGING WORLD

We're living in the Anthropocene: the geologic period in which humans have made the largest—and most detrimental—impact on the planet. In *The Literature of the Anthropocene*, students explore and debate various perspectives on climate change through both a literary and a scientific lens. "We're tackling how to write about something as big as climate change in a way that's accessible," says English faculty member Andrew Stevens, who co-leads the course.

For more than 70 years, CA has distinguished itself as a no-prize school: no class ranks, no academic awards. We prefer to place emphasis on love of learning.



The remarkable breadth and depth of our curriculum extends to the arts. CA offers more than 45 courses across our music, theater, and dance programs.

WE'RE BOUND BY COMMON TRUST

Common trust is an unspoken agreement, a glue that bonds all of us at Concord Academy.

Every one of us at CA—students, teachers, staff, coaches, and house faculty—holds an intrinsic respect for one another's ideas, opinions, identities, and possessions.

“Common trust is the understanding that you are connected to everything and everyone, and making the best of that interconnection. It's about realizing that your behavior, and your very existence, has consequences and connections to everybody and everything.”



MAX HALL, FACULTY, SCIENCE



Every senior has the opportunity to deliver a chapel talk, surrounded by friends, family members, and the entire CA community.



A COMMON RITE OF PASSAGE

It's 8:40 a.m. on a chilly November day. Stefano Amador '19 steps up to the podium in the Elizabeth B. Hall Chapel to deliver his chapel talk to the CA community.

“I've done a lot of work in terms of social justice,” he tells his peers. “You always have to ask yourself this: ‘Who is my activism for?’”

For the 15 minutes that follow, Stefano shares the experiences that shaped him, thanks family

and friends for their support, and imparts this sage advice: “Surround yourself with people who care about you entirely.”

Three times a week, a senior stands before family and friends to mark this rite of passage. The tradition of chapel is one of the most memorable ways we experience and embody common trust.

SKILL YOU DISCOVERED AT CA?

"I attended a middle school that assigned very little homework, so I wasn't prepared for the rigor and challenge of CA," says Saul. "Luckily, my teachers and advisor made my transition to CA smooth and straightforward."



"I learned how to manage my time and prioritize responsibilities at Concord Academy."



Saul Verdi

SAUL VERDI '21
Chicago, IL

HOW I WILL CHANGE THE WORLD
I will build sustainable homes for underprivileged families.

COURSE AT CA THAT CHANGED YOUR WORLDVIEW?

"In my first-year biology course, I became fascinated with the biological and socioeconomic effects of diabetes."



Isabelle Charles

ISABELLE CHARLES '19
Milton, MA

HOW I WILL CHANGE THE WORLD
By helping people find commonalities among their cultural differences.

This fascination carried over to Isabelle's senior project, which examined diabetes and food policy in urban communities. "After learning that communities of color are disproportionately impacted by health issues, I knew I wanted to find answers."

THE ADVISING RELATIONSHIP

The mentoring relationship that students form with their advisors is one of the most rewarding aspects of their CA experience.

As a student, you'll meet with your advisor once a week to talk about learning and life. These one-on-one meetings can take place over lunch, on the quad, or during walks into town for coffee.



"Common trust is key," notes Nick. "Being open in your conversations is vital to the advising relationship. It's important for both of us—the advisor and advisee—to share the honest sides of ourselves, so that we both feel known to each other."

"Ellen and I both share a love of Thoreau. And we often find ourselves talking about our place in the world, and how we can become better citizens."

 NICK HIEBERT

"Nick has been incredible in helping me with my academics, but he's also helped me organize my life. Even though we meet once a week, I know he's there whenever I need him."

 ELLEN JENNINGS '20



"Advising isn't a one-way street," says Sabrina. "I've learned so much from Sam. Having a window into his world helps me understand the perspectives of all my students. And that makes me both a teacher and a student in this advising relationship."

"During his first year, Sam struggled with juggling academics and athletics. **We worked together to find balance.** A year later, he's achieving that balance on his own."

 SABRINA SADIQUE

"I'm able to sit across from Sabrina every week and talk about everything that's going on in my life. I don't know any other school where you'd get this kind of relationship. She's made a huge difference in my life."

 SAM REMONDI '21

Students call teachers by their first names. It's a sign of the common trust and respect we have for one another.



Student run, life changing

The student-run organization, CA Women in Tech, sponsored the first annual Taking CTRL, a daylong conference celebrating women in the world of technology. The attendees—who included high school and middle school students, along with representatives from Dell, Raytheon, MIT, and other companies and institutions—explored topics such as coding, deep learning, and sports science management.

"It's a place where we share beats and our techniques," says Ethan Cole '19. He's talking about the Producers Club, a student-run group that meets weekly to collaborate and compose music. Before joining the club, Ethan had his sights set on pursuing literature or science, but he got hooked on making music. "I'm headed to Berklee College of Music to study songwriting and digital music production. It's amazing how one experience can change your life course."



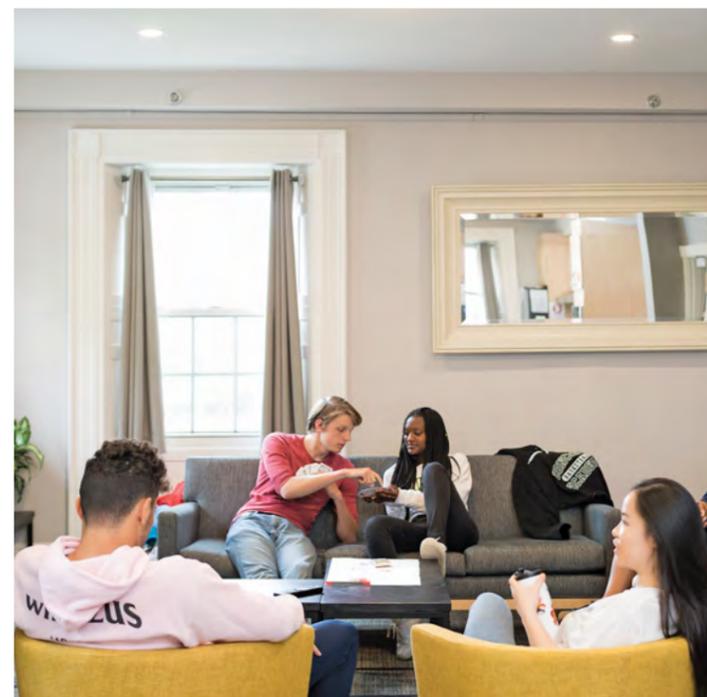
LIVING AND LEARNING IN BALANCE

The balance of boarding and day students shapes our culture, widens our worldview, and connects all of us to Concord Academy, its people, and its history.

More than 40 percent of our student community make their home on the CA campus, while the others arrive each morning by rail, car, or foot.

SWITCHING IT UP

From time to time, day students may spend a night on campus, while boarding students may spend a night at a day student's home. The experience gives students a break from their usual day-to-day routines.



Our boarding students live in one of six historic houses situated along Main Street. Each home has its own layout and character. Seniors live next to sophomores, first-year students across from juniors—and they study, hang out, and learn from one another. House faculty, as well as other faculty and staff members, live on-campus with their families—including lots of pets. All campus residences support and contribute to boarding life at CA.

COME TOGETHER

Throughout the year, day and boarding students take part in Community Weekends, a series of events designed to bring the entire CA community together. Past weekends have featured beach parties, movie nights, and service trips.

Around 8 a.m. every weekday, Main Street comes alive with the arrival of day students. They travel to campus from all over Greater Boston. Some share a car on the commuter rail, then make the three-block walk to campus, while others emerge from car pools carrying backpacks, instruments, and athletic gear. A few of our day students live nearby and make the short walk to campus.



“Making House Food brings the house together as a family and allows me to share a valuable part of my culture and traditions.”

Wenjun Kuai WENJUN KUAI, FACULTY

EATING IT UP

If it's 11 p.m. on a Saturday, then it's House Food time. House faculty prepare all sorts of delicacies—from chocolate chip cookies to homemade mac and cheese to jerk chicken.



WE FOCUS ON THE INDIVIDUAL

We see, challenge, and encourage each student for who they are and who they can become.

We believe the most authentic learning occurs when you assemble and appreciate a mix of voices and viewpoints from various origins, cultures, and backgrounds.

During the academic year, the Community and Equity team sponsors programs that invite the CA community to challenge inequity and explore pressing themes of social justice.

For example, rather than taking the "day off" on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, our student body has a "day on" to consider our own identities, the society we live in, and the future we want for ourselves and for others.

The Community and Equity team supports CA's many affinity groups, which allow students to explore their shared cultures.

ALIANZA LATINA
(STUDENTS
OF HISPANIC/LATINX
DESCENT)

ASIAN STUDENTS
ASSOCIATION (ASA)

GENDER SEXUALITY
ALLIANCE (GSA)

INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT
ORGANIZATION (ISO)

JEWISH STUDENT
ORGANIZATION (JSO)

MEN OF COLOR
ALLIANCE (MoCA)

MULTIETHNIC
STUDENT
ORGANIZATION
(MESO)

MUSLIM STUDENTS
ORGANIZATION
(MSO)

QUEER AND
QUESTIONING (Q*2)

QUEER PEOPLE OF
COLOR (QPoC)

SOUTH ASIAN
STUDENT SOCIETY
(SASS)

UMOJA (STUDENTS
OF AFRICAN
DESCENT)

WOMEN OF COLOR
ALLIANCE (WoCA)

WOMEN'S
ORGANIZATION



Founded in 1988 by former history teacher Kevin Jennings (pictured left), our Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) was one of the first organizations at a North American high school to support the LGBTQ+ community. Today, the GSA, which now stands for Gender Sexuality Alliance, continues to promote equality and educate the CA community about current and future LGBTQ+ issues.

SOMETHING YOU DID AT CA THAT CHANGED YOUR PERSPECTIVE?

“I had never challenged myself to be an athlete like I challenged myself to be a student—I didn’t realize that I can be both.”



Haley credits her varsity lacrosse coach with inspiring her “to be the best player I can be and embrace the value of teamwork.”



Haley Wixom

HALEY WIXOM '20
Concord, MA

HOW I WILL CHANGE THE WORLD
I will inspire young girls to pursue opportunities in technology.

MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE AT CA?

“Banding together with my Advanced Physics classmates to succeed in an incredibly challenging course.”



“We spent countless hours preparing for one of the most challenging exams of our high school careers,” says Lucas. “To celebrate, we designed T-shirts and other gear to honor our achievement.”



Lucas Ewing

LUCAS EWING '19
Boston, MA

HOW I WILL CHANGE THE WORLD
I will have a positive impact on the communities around me.

JOIN THE CLUB

CA is home to more than 70 clubs and organizations that span a wide range of interests, including jazz, anime, chemistry, fiction, and, yes, Harry Potter.

Have an idea for a new club? Start your own!



CA has several clubs that empower students to share their voices and talent, including the student-run newspaper, *The Centipede*, and our arts and literature magazine, *The Chameleon*.

The All-School Council is a forum that enables students to voice their views on all policies and issues at Concord Academy. The council meets weekly, and is open to all members of the CA community.



DEMONs [DREAMERS, ENGINEERS, MECHANICS, AND OVERT NERDS]

Led by physics teacher Max Hall, this lively pack of self-professed geeks design and build ingenious projects for use in the CA community—and beyond. Past DEMONs creations include a hovercraft, a robot, wave pendulums, and a system that measures and transmits river depth data to the cloud.



MODEL UN

Every April, the Concord Academy Model UN invites students from all over the region to the CA campus to engage in meaningful discussion. Past councils have debated both historical and timely topics, including the Constitutional Convention of 1787, Universal LGBTQ+ Rights, Cryptocurrency in Human and Drug Trafficking, and AI and National Security.



CASA (CONCORD ACADEMY STUDENTS ACTIVISTS)

CASA's mission is to engage students in meaningful service—both at CA and in our communities. Recently, the group co-sponsored LUNAFEST, a traveling festival celebrating women in film. The fundraiser benefited two female-led nonprofits, including Dignity in Asylum, a local organization that supports asylum seekers and refugees.



POETRY CLUB

From haikus to sonnets to ballads, the Poetry Club is well versed in sharing their voices through verbal artistry. In addition to creating and critiquing original works, the club sponsors readings, slams, and other events throughout the year to get the word out—literally.

chameleon pride



Legend has it that the chameleon made its first appearance in Concord Academy's art and magazines during the 1920s. Since its debut, the little lizard has gone on to adorn class rings, coffee mugs, stickers, sweatshirts, and notebooks. It's even carved into the podium in our Chapel.

The chameleon is best known for its ability to change the color of its skin. So it's only fitting that the CA chameleon serves as an enduring symbol of our ability as learners to adapt in a changing world.



ATHLETICS AT CA



CA students strive for excellence in academics—and bring that same drive and determination to the game.

We believe in the transformational power of movement and healthy competition.

Unlike at most independent schools, CA teachers are not required to coach. As a result, all of our sports programs are led by passionate faculty and staff members or expert independent coaches.



“We believe in educating the whole student. Developing skills on the court, field, track, or diamond that build on the values of teamwork, balance, and integrity is a big part of that.”

Sue Johnson
SUE JOHNSON,
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



Sprawling across nearly 14 acres, the Moriarty Athletic Campus is a venue for building character, teamwork, and pride in the CA community. Dedicated in 2012, the state-of-the-art campus hosts a fieldhouse, natural grass fields, a baseball diamond, cross-country trails, and six hard-surface USTA tennis courts.

Concord Academy offers a wide array of athletic options, including physical education classes, intramural programs, and more than 30 interscholastic teams that compete in the Eastern Independent League. Our programs are designed to meet the needs of college-bound athletes, as well as those who are looking to stay healthy and have a little fun.



Our varsity teams focus on skill refinement and competition, while our JV, intramural, and PE offerings center on skill development and participation.



THE ARTS AT CA

The arts are a critical part of the curriculum that require us to ask questions, solve problems, and respond to the world around us.

You're invited to explore the remarkable breadth and depth of the CA arts program.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, AND ACTION

When you're part of the Directors' Workshop Festival, you do more than act. Students wear a multitude of hats—from set design to lighting to hair and makeup—to produce theatrical events for the CA community. The student-directed performances teach valuable lessons that go beyond the stage. "I learned how to resolve conflicts with other directors," says Elliot White '19, who worked as a set designer and stage manager for the festival. "I also learned the values of time management and staying on budget."

The CA arts faculty are professional artists in their respective fields. They bring a wealth of experience, knowledge, and energy to their classrooms.



RISE TO THE OCCASION

"CA students are committed to social justice," says Choral Director Tai Oney. "We wanted our spring concert, *Rise Up*, to reflect our commitment to equality." In preparation, Chorus and Concord Academy Singers selected songs that address themes of diversity, including a musical arrangement of Langston Hughes' "I Dream a World" and a moving rendition of "Rise Up" by female chorus members. "It was a powerful evening," Tai notes. "We were reminded how fearless and committed our students truly are."



THE PORTRAITS OF AN ARTIST

File under ambitious senior projects: Nina He '17 had a vision of creating 8-by-8-inch portraits of each of her 97 classmates. Working from individual photographs, she sketched each portrait by hand, then used acrylic paint to bring each canvas to life. "It's a really intimate experience to paint your classmates," says Nina. "When you zoom into their faces for two to three hours, you really get to know the person." Following the exhibition of her work, Nina donated the collection of portraits to the Concord Academy archives.



Violin, bagpipes, or the didgeridoo: You can learn any instrument at Concord Academy.



DIFFERENCE-MAKING CHAMELEONS

Concord Academy alumnae/i are shaping the world in meaningful ways.

Just a few examples of the thousands of global CA alumnae/i who are making a difference.



LUCY MCFADDEN '70

Searches for moons and collects meteorites as a NASA investigator—and even has an asteroid named after her.



SARAH KOENIG '86

Produced NPR's *This American Life* and *Serial*, the most popular podcast in history.



SEBASTIAN JUNGER '80

Recounted the true-life tale of an epic tempest in his award-winning novel, *The Perfect Storm*.



IMANI PERRY '90

Award-winning author and Princeton University professor who is shaping the dialogue on race, law, literature, and African American culture.



TOM FIRST '85

Turned an idea of selling juice in recycled wine bottles into the beverage empire, Nantucket Nectars.



CAROLINE KENNEDY '75

Former U.S. ambassador to Japan who continues to advocate for women's rights around the world.



PHILIPPE VON BORRIES '97 & JUSTIN STEFANO '98

Formed Refinery29, an entertainment company for young women with a global audience of 550 million.



DREW GILPIN FAUST '64

Revered historian who became the 28th president of Harvard University, the first woman to serve in that role.



RASHAUN MITCHELL '96

Named "Outstanding Emerging Choreographer" and a Guggenheim Fellow, he continues to inspire the world through his artistic vision.



RACHEL MORRISON '96

Became the first woman to be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Cinematography.

Our alumnae/i community includes nearly 5,000 CA graduates living around the globe. We are a vibrant and engaged community that values our connections to CA and to one another.



The only award at Concord Academy honors Joan Shaw Herman '46, who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of people with disabilities. The Joan Shaw Herman Award for Distinguished Service recognizes a member of the CA alumnae/i community who has gone above and beyond to make a difference in the world.

Read more about our remarkable alumnae/i at

CONCORDACADEMY.ORG

Ready to experience love of learning and common trust? The best way to learn more about Concord Academy is to visit our campus.

ADMISSIONS@CONCORDACADEMY.ORG



OUR MISSION

We are a community animated by love of learning, diverse and striving for equity, with common trust as our foundation.

Honoring each individual, we challenge and expand our understanding of ourselves and the world through purposeful collaboration and creative engagement.

We cultivate empathy, integrity, and responsibility to build a more just and sustainable future.





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