

# Freedom of Expression



Westchester  
Community College

State University of New York

The core principles of Westchester Community College are rooted in the ability to create avenues for intellectual pursuits which require open, free, and thoughtful debate. The strength of the institution is its ability to open minds, regardless of the personal leanings of individuals in our community. To do that, we push our students and others out of their comfort zone and engage in respectful discourse. It is through these experiences that we challenge our own assumptions and beliefs, and ultimately, learn in a thoughtful way.

The institution is committed to the fostering of a campus climate that equitably supports the diversity inherent in our modern, pluralistic society. Our academic communities encourage critical inquiry and the free expression of diverse opinions for the creation of effective and inclusive learning environments. We call upon all members of our academic communities—faculty, staff, and students—to not only engage in, but to encourage, civil discourse that enables the exchange of ideas, however uncomfortable, thus furthering the crucial mission of public higher education to contribute to the greater good.

*This policy, endorsed by the Westchester Community College Board of Trustees, is based on the Joint Statement on Civil Discourse and Campus Climate as adopted by the SUNY Faculty Council of Community Colleges and SUNY University Faculty Senate. For further information please email [info@sunywcc.edu](mailto:info@sunywcc.edu)*