

Texas A&M Ranks High for Diversity So, Why All the Hullabaloo?

Surprise! The 12th Man is a leader in ethnic diversity, which has been a part of our campus well before the first black cadets arrived in 1964. In fact, the very first Aggie touchdown was scored by “N. Valdez” of Hidalgo, Mexico, in 1894. According to collegefactual.com, Texas A&M ranks above average in racial diversity, in the top 15% for ethnic diversity, and top 10% for male/female diversity. US News ranks A&M 3rd in the SEC in its “diversity index”. In the last 20 years black student enrollment increased 79%, and Latinos 293%, compared to just 9% for whites. Particularly considering a high international student population, Texas A&M is one of the country’s more diverse campuses. Teleport someone into the McDonalds on Northgate, and if not for all the Aggie t-shirts, he wouldn’t be able to guess what country he was in.

So why does this false narrative about Texas A&M’s supposed lack of diversity persist? What’s with all the Hullabaloo from the media and progressive interest groups? Could it be because Texas A&M is the most conservative large university in America? Our core values of Excellence, Integrity, Leadership, Loyalty, Respect and Selfless Service are taken to heart. Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentlemen, the Aggie Honor Code and unique traditions are embraced by students and former students alike to create a special culture of “We are the Aggies – The Aggies are we” which unites all of us in the Aggie Spirit. Unfortunately, the term “diversity”, as used on most college campuses today, does not mean exposing students to a diversity of cultures and backgrounds, much less viewpoints. It is merely a euphemism—a tool used by a growing diversity bureaucracy to enforce a leftist political orthodoxy, using minority students as pawns while inflating the cost of attendance.

Texas A&M now has 46 full-time diversity staff, just counting those with diversity, equity, and inclusion in their job title. Some claim based on their own metrics that we are still below the national average in such bureaucrats, but we are in fact indistinguishable from the University of Texas. What are the measurable benefits of this additional cost born by taxpayers, tuition payers, and donors? Research suggests that large Diversity, Inclusion, Equity bureaucracies appear to make little positive contribution on campus climate. Indeed, according to former president Michael Young’s commission, minority students’ affinity for Texas A&M has declined in recent years, as the number of DIE staff has grown. Why then have such a large Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, Staff?

Students will be much better served by a university that values them as individuals rather than as members of a minority preferred group. We should empower them with the knowledge that their successes and failures in life will depend on their abilities and effort and not the benevolence of their supposed “allies”, historic mistreatment of their ancestors or the “microaggressions” of their perceived enemies. In a world in which we are now all minorities in one regard or another, any other approach can only sow conflict.

Texas A&M by all accounts is one of the most welcoming and friendly college campuses in the world! Recently, Gold Medalist Athing Mu stated, “Texas A&M is a land of the most genuine people I’ve ever met. I feel like I’m a genuine person, and I love ‘love’. There are so many resources in academics and athletics. It’s so well-rounded here. I have everything I need to be successful here.”

All Aggies and Texans should celebrate the accomplishments of Texas A&M regarding diversity by promoting the Aggie culture and traditions which make A&M such a unique and welcoming place where we are as “True to each other as Aggies can be”. Meanwhile, we must stop funding an expensive diversity bureaucracy which presents a false narrative, inhibits honest inquiry, and detracts from the core academic mission of our university.

Texas A&M is a shining light of diversity in higher education and should be promoted as such! Congratulations Aggies!! Well Done!!

Joe Bourgeois ’89

Dr. Matt Poling ’90

Note: This is the first in a three-part series on Diversity, Inclusion and Equity as it applies to the college campus today.