



Oct. 16, 2016

To our Pioneer community,

In recent weeks the free speech wall has been a source of great conflict, fueling the increasingly tense racial climate here on our campus. As a result of these tensions, The Wall was temporarily closed. Today we are writing to invite you, our DU community, to help us revive The Wall this **Sunday, Oct. 16 from 5-7 p.m.**

Since its closing, we have taken part in dialogues across campus, and have listened to student concerns, experiences and narratives. As a result of these conversations, we would like to announce a new set of guidelines for The Wall. These guidelines, which stem from our dialogues over the last week and from DU's [code of conduct](#), position The Wall as a space where we can engage with one another more authentically, communicating our feelings and expressing our viewpoints without silencing other members of our community.

Conceptual Guidelines:

Students may use The Wall to **express opinions, share information** and **stimulate conversation**.

- DU recognizes the right to freedom of expression and the free interchange of ideas, embracing every student in the community, welcoming them and their diverse voices. As an inclusive community, DU celebrates cultural diversity, and encourages debates and differences that cultivate dialogue and learning.

Students may not use The Wall to **intimidate, oppress** or **exploit** members of the community.

- DU has a **zero tolerance** policy for discrimination, harassment and gender-based violence, and therefore, The Wall cannot be used to promote messages that compromise the safety of community members. Content on the wall that intimidates members of the community, leading them to fear for their safety and well-being is in violation of The Wall guidelines.
- Hate speech, which is prohibited on The Wall, may take the form of direct or indirect offensive slurs, jokes, messages, or attacks on members of the DU community based on their race, gender, ethnic origin, religion, abilities, socioeconomic background, or sexual orientation.

Specific Guidelines:

1. **Students using The Wall must not alter existing messages on The Wall, and are asked to paint entirely over a panel before writing their message.**
2. Students or organizations are encouraged to identify themselves in the message. We

expect our community to stand behind their words and art; anonymity does not allow for dialogue and allows one to disrupt community standards without facing the impact and accountability of their work.

3. A camera has been put in place to monitor The Wall, and students in violation of the above guidelines will be subject to a student conduct evaluation facilitated by the University administration.

The Wall is a vehicle for expression, for inquiry and for inclusivity. These guidelines are not intended to restrict free expression; rather they are a means through which we can continue to thrive as an inclusive community with a shared value system and many varied viewpoints. We look forward to using The Wall as a space for open and expressive communication, and ask that you join us on Sunday as we repaint The Wall together. Snacks, paint and music will be provided.

Moving forward, please join us in using The Wall as a medium to help cultivate a Pioneer community of respect, acceptance and support.

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