

August 1, 2019

Dear Pingree Families,

I hope the summer has been restorative for your family. Whether you are a new or returning family to Pingree, we look forward to seeing you in the next few weeks!

I am writing to share with you our emerging priorities for the Community and Multicultural Development Office for the school year. The Community and Multicultural Development Office works collaboratively with academic and co-curricular programs to support Pingree's goals of nurturing and sustaining a diverse, equitable, and inclusive school community. This year emerging priorities include expanding community dialogue on diversity, equity, and inclusion topics and a continued focus on student leadership development.

Expanding the opportunity for community conversations on diversity, equity, and inclusion topics are designed to promote generative thinking in our community and will be an important focus this year. In the fall, we will welcome Dr. Rodney Glasgow to campus to facilitate a series of dialogues with the community. Dr. Glasgow, Head of Middle School and Chief Diversity Officer at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Maryland, is a noted and skilled diversity and inclusion facilitator. Last summer, Dr. Glasgow provided training to the faculty/staff that equipped them with additional tools to create inclusive spaces. He will return to campus to work with faculty/staff, students, parents/guardians, and trustees. More information will be forthcoming about the details of his work with our community.

Cultivating student leadership is an important role of my office in the community. Through social justice and equity clubs and leadership conferences, we seek to train and empower students to lead conversations with each other. This past year we launched the Student Equity and Inclusion Leadership Committee, which met regularly with school administration and the Student Life Committee and led student sessions during our annual MLK Day program. The committee also emerged as an important student advocacy group around topics of school climate and culture. We will continue to support this committee and hope to use it to foster more student-led conversations.

As we look toward a new school year, I look forward to our continued partnership in this area. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or questions you might have regarding the work of my office.

Sincerely,

Dr. Zara-Marie Spooner

Dean of Community and Multicultural Development