

endeavors, including the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, the Scripps Clinic, the San Diego Zoo, and Scripps College, her “crown jewel.” Her leading influence at The Claremont Colleges led to the purchase of land that not only enabled Scripps College to flourish but also provided space to establish Claremont McKenna, Harvey Mudd, and Pitzer Colleges. Her role in the launching of the Claremont group plan led to her being featured on the cover of *Time* magazine in 1926.

Ellen Browning Scripps characterized her involvement with Scripps College as her most important work in a rich lifetime of creating opportunities to widen human knowledge. Her words are still deeply resonant today:

“The paramount obligation of a college is to develop in its students the ability to think clearly and independently, and the ability to live confidently, courageously, and hopefully.”

The College Seal: *La Semeuse*

The seal of Scripps College, designed by sculptor Lee Lawrie, depicts *La Semeuse*—she who sows. The image of the sower of “the good seed of thought, of action, of life” was chosen by the faculty in the 1927–28 academic year. They also selected the College motto, *Incipit Vita Nova*—“here beginneth the new life.” The esteemed Professor Hartley Burr Alexander was largely responsible for the seal’s image and the motto. Before he arrived on campus, he suggested *Incipit Vita Nova*, the first words of Dante’s *New Life*.

The Principles of Community

Scripps College is a community of scholars: faculty, students, and staff dedicated to the education of women and the advancement of learning.

To further this community, Scripps seeks to attract a diverse student body and to build a diverse faculty and staff. Our goal is to create a hospitable environment without discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, culture, color, beliefs, physical condition, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation, or age. Scripps believes that each member of the community contributes to the learning and teaching of all and, therefore, seeks to balance individual freedoms and sensitivity to, and awareness of, the rights and human dignity of others. Scripps recognizes the obligation to respond to the acts and effects of discrimination and bigotry by building an academic community in which people learn to respect and value one another for their differences.

Scripps believes that learning and teaching thrive in an environment conducive to freedom of belief, inquiry, and speech, assuring expression of the broadest range of opinions and beliefs. Scripps commits itself to maintaining that freedom, subject only to regulation of time, place, and manner.

Recognizing that such expressions may offend, provoke, and disturb, Scripps affirms its dedication to encourage rather than limit expression. At the same time, Scripps

encourages community members to show mutual respect and understanding and to employ reasoned civil discourse.

Scripps seeks to secure, through its academic and community policies and practices, through its actions and the services it provides to students, faculty, and staff, the widest appreciation for all groups and individuals; to combat discrimination and misunderstanding; and to forge a better and more just society.

Each member of the Scripps community affirms, by her or his continuing participation in College life, acceptance of her or his personal responsibility and obligation to the community in assuring that these principles are upheld in all aspects of our lives together.

The Principles of Diversity

An understanding and appreciation of diverse peoples, cultures, and perspectives informs the intellectual framework on which our institutional mission is based and is critical to Scripps' realization of its goal to become the premier liberal arts college in the country. The College is committed to demonstrating that respect of differences among people is a prerequisite to achieving institutional excellence.

Through its policies and its actions, Scripps strives to create an environment in which acknowledging and engaging issues of race, ethnicity, religion, belief, opinion, economic class, age, gender, sexuality, and physical ableness are inextricably part of the experience of the campus community.

Vision Statement of Scripps College as a Multicultural Community

Miss Ellen Browning Scripps' vision for the College she founded was a stirring one: "to develop in its students the ability to think clearly and independently, and the ability to live confidently, courageously and hopefully." For Scripps College students in the 21st century, the education that fulfills this mission must include establishing their own sense of values and guiding principles, as well as the capacity to work with and learn from the variety of people, cultures, and viewpoints they will encounter in the United States and in the emerging global society. The interaction of each student's own beliefs and values with those of fellow students, faculty, staff and others encountered here at Scripps forms the crucible in which her education will be tested. Fostering a truly interactive and multifaceted community of teachers and learners is the only way in which the College can meet its goal of offering the best liberal arts education in America.

What will be different about a Scripps that is more diverse, more challenging, more embracing? We know that it is not merely "adding" people of different backgrounds to a homogenous society. It will mean that virtually every conversation will have many more than two viewpoints; it will mean that the underlying assumptions of every question will be probed. "Majority" members of the community will need to change their assumptions. It will certainly mean that the roles played by women of color, or gay students, or Muslim students, or recent immigrants, or differently abled students, will change. Each of us at Scripps will understand that there are a variety of "markers" of identity for all students,