The Iliff Diversities Program seeks to cultivate an open, welcoming and accepting culture of inclusive excellence both on campus and in the broader society. The program has several important goals:

- To affirm, honor and celebrate the many kinds of diversity (such as disability, ethnic, sexual orientation, racial, gender, religious, political and ideological) represented at Iliff and in the community at large.
- To equip Iliff students, faculty, staff, and trustees to be honest and effective advocates for inclusive citizenship both locally and globally.
- To be a leader in engaging the worlds of business, education, government, not-for-profit sector, religion and other publics in order to collaborate on making diversity and inclusive excellence an integral part of the social fabric.

One of the program’s strengths is that it does not put the variety of diversities in competition with each other. It operates with a generous and comprehensive appreciation of many kinds of diversities. Moreover, the program goes beyond mere toleration and recognition of difference. It embraces and celebrates human and natural diversity as a compelling value in which humans come to discover and affirm their environment and each other’s unique identities, gifts, and talents as they work together towards respect, mutuality, and inclusion. This is an important source for achieving excellence in any area of human endeavor.

CIVILITY

Diversity at Iliff uses a rich variety of approaches such as seminars, lectures, community based learning experiences, workshops, social and cultural events as well as the arts, to confront, challenge, and resist all forms of hate, bullying, incivility, bigotry, violent intolerance and discrimination against the disabled, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered persons, ethnic minority groups such as Blacks, Hispanics, Jews, and other marginalized communities.

The program aims to create awareness of the corrosive and debilitating effects of hate on everyone caught in its destructive web, and to equip participants with the ethical skills to model open relationships and motivate the public to act against all manifestations of hatred. The program includes regular civility intergroup dialogues and activities, courageous conversations on controversial topics and civility book discussion groups within and beyond Iliff.

Hatred, prejudice, discrimination, bigotry, bullying, violence, ideological intolerance and lack of civility have become major social problems in our culture. These things poison campus climate at many schools, universities and colleges, they infect public debate and the proceedings of many legislatures and corporate boardrooms. Recent, nationwide calls for civility by politicians, professors, religious leaders, academic administrators, corporate CEOs, concerned parents, and journalists demonstrate the extent of the problem.

What are we to do in order to build communities of civic virtue, friendship and good will? The Iliff School of Theology (Iliff) is proud to offer a robust program of multifaceted diversity initiatives to confront the challenges and threats of hatred and intolerance. The program is built on Iliff’s long legacy of commitment to social justice. Its goals are equality, access, inclusion, justice and peace.
EQUITY, JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS

In addition to advocating a culture of inclusion, the program also provides proactive leadership in creating and promoting effective strategies for achieving equity, fairness and justice in all walks of life. This includes equity in employment, education, health, and the law. This aspect of the program offers practical expertise and guidance in developing and implementing principles, ideals and practices that foster the equal treatment of all in compliance with state and federal legislation and the best values of a truly democratic culture.

This is supported through a rigorous Justice and Peace studies program that focuses on equity, access and inclusion in the larger context of other social issues such as human rights, immigration, unemployment, race, sexuality, as well as gender, and is open to the wider public including business executives, nonprofit managers, pastors, government leaders, administrators, and community leaders.

DIVERSITIES PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

Edward Phillip Antonio, associate dean of diversities, leads Iliff’s efforts in making diversities and issues of justice and peace an integral part of who Iliff is and strives to be in preparing leaders for an increasingly diverse and seemingly peace-resistant world.

Antonio teaches theology, social theory and philosophy at Iliff. Before coming to Iliff he taught at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa and at the University of Zimbabwe. He has written and published on racism, sexuality, religious pluralism and sexuality and HIV/AIDS in Africa. He served as the treasurer of the South African Academy of Religion and was an American Academy of Religion (AAR) Luce Fellow. He led a process in Nigeria for the Center for Interfaith Action on Global Poverty (CIFA) to reflect on and evaluate Muslim and Christian faith leaders mutually engaged in interfaith action on malaria prevention throughout the country.

Antonio led an immersion learning trip for Iliff students and alumni to Zimbabwe and South Africa, Nov. 2013 - a life-changing experience for a group of 14.

COURAGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Since 1892, Iliff has been graduating students who have the strength and courage to make real change possible. Founded upon the ability to bring a passion for human dignity and compassion for those on the social margins, Iliff continues in that tradition today. For many students, Iliff has found ways to incorporate peaceful advocacy for social change into their professional work – wherever that might be – in congregations, agencies, higher education, or other organizations throughout society.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

The Diversities Program is a hallmark of Iliff’s inclusive excellence, a dynamic and challenging journey of discovery that is modeled, studied, practiced, and refined in the school’s teaching and learning community. It helps to shape a new generation of leaders that honors and appreciates inclusiveness and openness.

We invite you to participate with your support as a program sponsor, or with your personal or corporate gifts. Together we can change the world.

CONTACT

Edward Phillip Antonio
Office of the Associate Dean of Diversities
303-765-3163
eantonio@iliff.edu

The Iliff School of Theology
2323 East Iliff Avenue Denver, Colorado 80210 1-800-678-3360 www.iliff.edu