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Mission Statement

We aspire to create an environment on campus where open, honest, and direct conversation occurs often within and among various groups in a variety of settings. We believe that building capacity for this kind of engagement is essential to achieving inclusive excellence in our community and is a crucial catalyst for our cognitive, interpersonal, and intrapersonal development. We acknowledge and celebrate the diversity of social identities and opinions that enrich our community. Bentley Brave experiences work to affirm that **YOUR** voice is valuable and **OTHERS'** voices have value as well.

Bentley Brave experiences:

- **Foster Dialog, Not Debate** – To create dialog we need to actively listen to one another and seek to understand, not just to be understood, by working to make meaning across differences through engaged, respectful exchanges of ideas.
- **Provide opportunity for self-reflection** – To truly engage in open, honest, and direct conversation individuals must develop an awareness of their own identity and personal world view.
- **Create an environment that allows for courageous engagement** – To be brave means to move out of your comfort zone and stretch into experiences that might be uncomfortable. We believe the discomfort should come from ideas not people and encourage experiences that allow individuals to express curiosity without the threat of shame or contempt.
- **Acknowledge and support diversity of opinion** – To cultivate a climate that affirms the value of our voices, we encourage experiences that explore multiple viewpoints and allow for the expression of opposing ideas and concepts, rather than merely reinforcing accepted beliefs.



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