

APPLY

REQUEST INFO

VISIT



[COVID Information](#) [Online](#) [Admissions](#) [Academics](#) [Athletics](#) [News / Events](#)

[Advancement](#) [About](#) [Contact](#) [Q](#)

President Carter – “Our Goal is to Love as God Loves”



President Larry Carter (June 25, 2020)

Recently, I wrote a note to all of our GLCC family stating unequivocally our position on matters of race, especially racial discrimination. I have appreciated the positive comments we have received and hope that it has brought a greater degree of unity within our ranks. But, our position on race should not have come as a surprise to anyone. We have consistently worked toward including, accepting and loving all of our students no matter their ethnic or racial background.

When I came here as President about 20 years ago our student population was then made up of mostly small-town white students. While our campus displayed homogeneity and harmony and our graduates went on to serve the Lord in a

number of wonderful ways, there was something missing. Diversity. God had placed our college in a state that was rich in diversity. The problem was we didn't reflect the reality of God's creation. Statistics told us that about 13% of Michiganders were African-American. So, the question was, "Shouldn't our campus reflect the diversity of where God has placed us?"

Part of the solution was when, in 2005, we entered into a partnership with The Institute for Black Family Development in Detroit. This was a collaboration between the IBFD and GLCC that was to provide an academic and career program designed to prepare adult learners for leadership and service in an urban setting. That partnership lasted until 2016 when we mutually agreed to go in a different direction. During that time our college traveled weekly to Detroit to help train future Black leaders in order to make a real change in their respective communities. We even helped to organize and staff a "feed the hungry" program in Detroit working alongside people from many ethnic and racial backgrounds. Our partnership became a model for other colleges as they were seeking for ways to make an impact beyond their campuses.

In the meantime, throughout the 2010's we continued to increase our diversity until the 2011-2012 academic year when we reached an on-campus African-American student population of 24%. If you consider that the state of Michigan has only a 13.8% Black population it highlights the great strides we made in becoming a more diverse campus. Since that academic year we have maintained an average of 22% with 2019-2020 reaching 25%. That is nearly twice the demographic number for the entire state.

I wrote this piece for the "Key" to provide some perspective on what is happening in other parts of the country. Not all organizations are disposed to racial exclusivity or white elitism. I wanted all of our GLCC family to be encouraged to know that there is a place where people are valued and loved no matter their background or the color of their skin. GLCC is a place where diversity is viewed as

a blessing and strength. Now, we need to continue to grow in understanding of one another. We need to listen better. But, know this, our goal is to love as God loves and to do all we can to help each other become all that He has created us to be.

By [Phil Beavers](#) | June 25th, 2020 | [Uncategorized](#)

Share This Story, Choose Your Platform!



APPLY TODAY

Save time and complete your application online!

[APPLY NOW](#)

ECFA ACCREDITED



NEWSLETTER SIGNUP

Stay in the loop with all of the latest Great Lakes news and updates.

[SUBSCRIBE NOW](#)

