



February 15, 2023

“It takes more courage to speak in a silent room than to become another voice in a crowd.”

Alexis Morrell
Wolcott, Connecticut



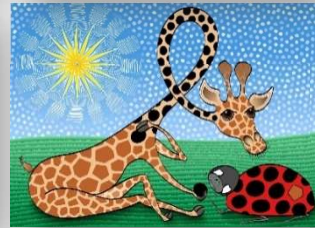
“Adversity doesn't define a person, rather how they choose to react to it.”

Joshua Rolle
12th Grade, State College of Florida Collegiate School
Bradenton, Florida
Teacher: Ashley MacMunn



“Conquer the critic within and the critic out there cannot hurt you.”

Oghogho Abieyewa Odiasé
Lagos, Nigeria



“The world is too BIG to say that you don't fit in.”

Katerina Bizirtsaki
Thessaloniki, Greece

20 YEARS EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES

Statement Regarding the Embracing Our Differences Exhibition at SCF

Embracing Our Differences' annual exhibition had been scheduled to be displayed at the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (SCF), April 26 to May 29. We regret to announce that SCF and EOD have had to withdraw the exhibition. It was a difficult decision. We made it after the College asked us to remove three banners, which included the words “diversity,” “inclusion,” “justice” and “equality.”

The Board of Directors has considered this request and has decided, unanimously, that the mission of our organization is not consistent with what is being asked as a prerequisite for showing our exhibition on the SCF campus.

We are not a political organization with a political agenda. We are, however, aware of the current political climate and understand that some institutions have had to look internally and decide how to proceed in the best interest of their own organizations.

Embracing our Differences has remained and will continue to remain true to our core values, and those values include embracing and promoting diversity, inclusion, and equity. To do otherwise would betray our mission and turn our backs on those who have supported us over the past two decades. For these reasons, we respectfully declined the requests made by State College of Florida and will not display our 20th anniversary exhibition there.

— *Embracing Our Differences Board of Directors*