

**Father Maher's Message in Response to the Supreme Court Decision  
on Using Race as a Factor in College Admissions**

**June 29, 2023**

Today's Supreme Court decision on using race as a factor in college admissions is disappointing and ignores practices designed to level the playing field for those long denied post-secondary educational opportunities because of their race. And although this decision was rendered in direct response to practices at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Harvard University, it can dramatically change how the nation's public and private colleges determine which students to admit.

As such, this ruling, especially when the country seems more divided, will make it harder to create an environment where all are welcomed, respected, supported and encouraged to succeed. We know the value of a college education and we know that access to a quality college education is still difficult for many. At Niagara, we are now and will continue to be committed to creating an environment where all can be successful and we will continue to ensure that individuals from every background will be allowed to thrive.

As we move forward, it is critical that we follow the words of Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who wrote in her dissenting opinion, "The pursuit of racial diversity will go on. Although the Court has stripped out almost all uses of race in college admissions, universities can and should continue to use all available tools to meet society's needs for diversity in education."

We will study this ruling and ensure that we continue to comply with the Court's decision. We will also continue to build diverse working and learning environments that benefit all individuals. Guided by our Catholic Social Teaching, as well as our Vincentian mission, we are called to be an inclusive community where all are welcome. We will continue to admit students and hire faculty and staff that reflect the diverse world where we live. We will do no less.