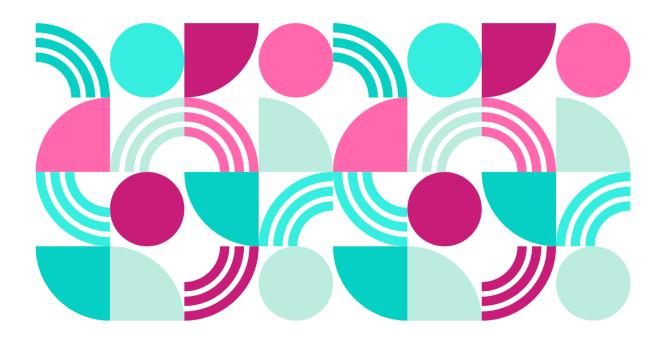


# Diversity & Equity Climate Survey 2023

# **Staff Results**



# Summary

# Staff

Delonging
Job Growth
Tension
Engagement in Worcester
Discrimination

Through the Diversity & Equity Climate survey, Clark strives to gain an understanding of the institution's strengths in diversity, inclusion, and equity, while also recognizing ways of maintaining this momentum in growth. This is one snapshot of results.

- Most staff respondents (73%) report that they are satisfied with the campus climate overall and with their sense of belonging or community at Clark, though BIPOC respondents report a lower rate of satisfaction with the campus climate overall. One-fifth (21%) of respondents agreed that they have considered leaving Clark because of challenges related to diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus, with respondents who identify as LGBTQIA+ (45%), BIPOC/International (26%), or as in student-facing roles agreeing at higher rates (29%) than other respondents.
- Compared to the 2017 HERI Diversity
   Climate Survey, Clark saw slight increases
   in levels of satisfaction with career
   development support, but also that they
   have to work harder than colleagues to
   achieve the same recognition and disagree
   that promotion processes are equitable.
- There are perceptions of tension in the Clark community. Further, one-third of respondents perceive others' satisfaction with their sense of belonging or community to be lower than their own. Numerous staff respondents suggested that Clark could more strongly encourage diverse viewpoints by providing more opportunities for individuals to complicate narratives and sit with discomfort, and to

As follow-up, additional attention is needed to discuss the University's approach to each of the above recommendations, and to dig further:

- How are different groups making meaning of the sense of community at Clark, and specifically staff of color? How do we foster a greater sense of community for these groups?
- What can be done to help promote staff retention? How can we better understand promotion rates and the validity of perceived inequity? And what can be done to adapt and strengthen the campus climate such that staff would not consider leaving due to it?
- What types of activities and corresponding structures (e.g., committees, offices) would support staff engagement in attending more gatherings and events and fostering a greater sense of community?
- How can we build staff understanding of and trust in the process for reporting? harassment and discrimination?

- make sure everyone knows their perspective is important.
- In their open-ended comments, respondents shared many thoughts on ways to bolster a sense of unity while also increasing awareness and community within different identity groups. Staff respondents strongly recommend:
  - Events and gatherings that bring staff together with the Clark community in a variety of social, fun, and meaningful ways.
  - Greater attention toward pay and retention efforts for staff/faculty/students, especially staff of color
  - Continued trainings, including on topics inclusive of different identities such as socioeconomic status.
  - Greater involvement in the Worcester community.
  - Administrative modeling of commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Staff respondents may benefit from a greater understanding of what happens after they report acts of harassment or discrimination. Staff respondents reported that they would know who to contact after witnessing or experiencing incidents (80%), as well as the process for reporting these acts, though respondents agreed the process was clear to them at a lower rate (52%). In open-ended responses, some staff respondents voiced discomfort with the power dynamics in reporting and/or the lack of trust in the process.

# **Respondents**

Nearly half of Clark staff (47.8%) responded to the survey (N=245). The vast majority of respondents are full-time (98%) and salaried (92%). One-quarter (24%) self-identify as BIPOC. Two-thirds (65%) of respondents identify as cisgender women, 32% as cisgender men, and 4% as nonbinary or transgender. Two-thirds (65%) of respondents identify as politically liberal, 31% as middle-of-the-road, and 5% as conservative. Respondents have been at Clark for a wide range of years (10+ years, 26%; 5-9 years, 21%; 1-4 years, 39%, less than 1 year, 14%). A breakdown of respondent demographics can be found in Appendix A in comparison to the staff population. Intersectionality exists across identities; for instance, newer employees are more likely to identify as liberal and racially/ethnically diverse, serve in student-facing roles, and indicate that they find trainings more impactful.

	<b>Survey Response Categories</b>	Staff Respondents		Fall Factbook	
		Count	%	Count	%
Total		275	100%	514	100%
BIPOC	BIPOC or International	83	30%	154	29%
	White	192	70%	365	70%
Race/ethnicity /citizenship	White	192	76%	363	70%
	African American/Black	15	6%	25	5%
	Hispanic/Latino	11	4%	69	13%
	Asian	7	3%	28	5%
	Multiple races/ethnicities	25	10%	10	2%
	All other races/ethnicities	1	0%	3*	<1%
	International	3	1%	21	4%
Gender	Man (cisgender)	83	32%	220	42%
	Woman (cisgender)	169	65%	292	56%
	Non-binary and/or transgender	10	4%	7**	<2%

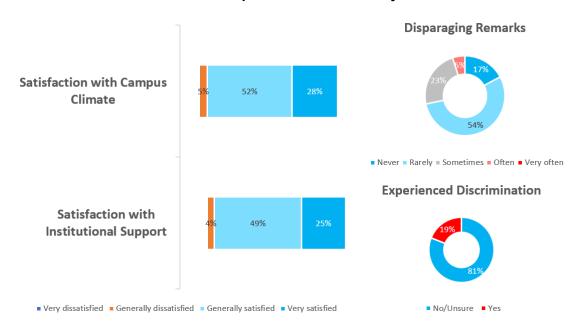
<sup>\*\*</sup>Fall Factbook does not report on transgender information; rather, it reports on individuals in Banner who have a gender of "N" for another gender or unknown.

### **Survey Indicators**

HEDS has four main indicators in its instrument: Campus Climate, Institutional Support for Diversity, Disparaging Remarks, and Discrimination. On the whole, **over three-quarters of staff members report they are satisfied with campus climate (80%) and institutional support of diversity, equity, and inclusion (74%).** Given the diversity of individuals and positions staff hold at Clark, there are noticeable variations in reported experiences by group.

Multivariate analyses found that individuals who report a sense of greater comfort with interacting with individuals of diverse backgrounds (e.g., different political orientations, race/ethnicities, socioeconomic statuses), individuals who had not experienced discrimination or harassment at Clark, and individuals who believed that diversity on campus improves interactions reported higher satisfaction with Clark's overall campus climate.

#### **Distribution of Responses to Main Survey Indicators**



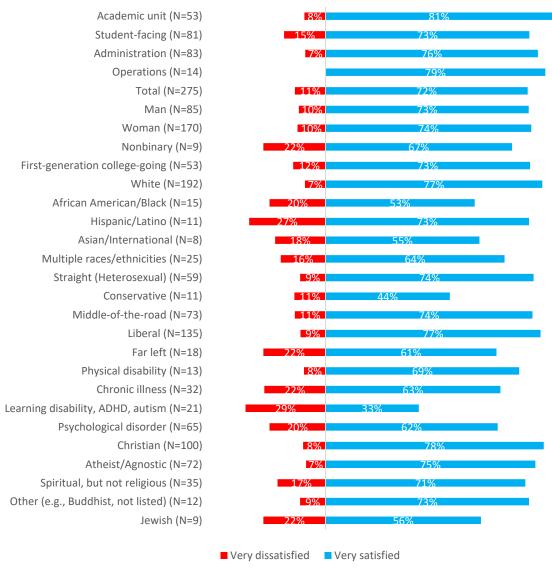
Note: Neutral responses are not displayed on satisfaction metrics

Campus Climate	Institutional Support	Disparaging Remarks	<u>Discrimination</u>
More Satisfied	More Satisfied	More Frequently	Experienced
White     Straight     Primarily remote	White     Cis-men/women     Liberal     Primarily remote     45-65 years old	Student-facing     Non-binary     BIPOC/Intl.     LGBTQIA+	Non-binary BIPOC/Intl. LGBTQIA+ 5-9 years at Clark
Less Satisfied	Less Satisfied	Less Frequently	Did Not Experience
BIPOC (esp. Black)     LGBTQIA+ (others' perceived community)     Primarily on campus      Multiracial     LGBTQIA+     25-35 years old		Academic/Admin. Unit     Remote     On campus	<1 Year at Clark

## **Climate: Belonging and Sense of Community**

While on the whole, 72% of staff respondents reported satisfaction with their sense of belonging or community at Clark, sense of belonging varies by group. Compared to all other respondents, satisfaction was lower among BIPOC staff in aggregate\*, African American/Black, Asian/International, and conservative staff respondents. Respondents who worked at Clark longer reported higher satisfaction with their sense of belonging or community compared to newer staff and are more likely to recommend Clark to others\*.

% Satisfied and Dissatisfied: "Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the extent to which you experience a sense of belonging or community at this institution" by Respondent Identity



In their open-ended comments, staff respondents advocated for more meaningful gatherings

to foster a sense of community and unity. Staff respondents recommended a variety of gatherings in different formats that included social events such as parties and more formal structures and programs such as mentoring to foster greater inclusivity and community. Sample comments include:

- "A weekly common hour where students, faculty, and staff don't have class/work commitments. Do a once-aweek lunch hour where issues of importance can be addressed (guest speakers, presentations, forums, etc.). Have bagged lunches for all. Lots of good programming exists already, and Clark is doing well."
- "More opportunities to share space with diverse populations in a way that is fun and engaging."
- "More opportunities for staff-based affinity spaces
  and connection with folks with shared identities across departments, since it can feel
  very isolating to be the only person with one's identities within a particular
  department/office."
- "Mentorships in order to foster a more caring and supportive environment."
- "There need to be more intellectually engaging and/or fun-filled university-wide events and activities that unite people across all lines."

Multivariate analyses found that individuals who report a sense of greater comfort with interacting with individuals of diverse backgrounds (e.g., different political orientation, race/ethnicities, socioeconomic statuses), individuals who had not experienced discrimination or harassment at Clark, and individuals who believed that diversity on campus improves interactions reported higher satisfaction with Clark's overall campus climate.

#### For Discussion:

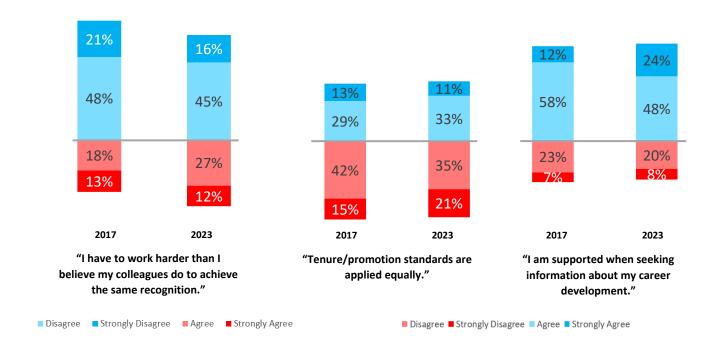
- We see that comfort with interacting with individuals of diverse backgrounds relates to satisfaction with climate for diversity. How do we encourage greater interaction and more comfort with diverse individuals? To what extent can trainings and structured programming and gatherings support greater comfort as well as sense of community and belonging?
- How do we best **review current offerings and events** that intentionally build staff community?

"Be inclusive and establish a sense of belonging by bringing all groups together to interact, share ideas, and make change. We celebrate differences but seldom bring groups of people together to share commonality."

# **Job Satisfaction and Support**

There have also been gains in perceived support surrounding career development. However, there is still some unevenness in perceived equity for promotions and level of work effort.

Responses from 2017 and 2023 to "Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements:"



On a positive note, a feeling of support for career development has increased since 2017. In 2017, 12% of respondents *strongly agreed* with feeling supported when seeking more information regarding career development; in 2023, this figure doubled to 24%. Overall, 72% of respondents *agree* or *strongly agree* that they are supported when seeking information about their career development. Though not statistically significant, African American/Black respondents *agree* or *strongly agree* they are supported in seeking information about their career development at higher rates compared to other ethnicities (90% vs 72% overall). Some groups of individuals felt less supported in seeking information on their career development. These groups include respondents with long-term disabilities (50% vs. 74% no disabilities)\*, Asian, international, and other race (63%) respondents, and respondents aged 55-64 compared to respondents from the youngest and oldest age groups (25-34, 65 or older).

Compared to 2017, more respondents in 2023 feel that they do have to work harder for similar recognition as their colleagues (39% *disagree* they have to work harder in 2023 vs. 31% in 2017). Overall, in 2023, BIPOC (53%) and non-binary/transgender (88%) respondents are significantly more likely to feel that they have to work harder than other staff to achieve the same recognition.

Since 2017, more staff respondents *strongly disagree* that promotion standards are applied equally. In 2017, 15% of staff *strongly disagreed* that tenure/promotion standards are being applied equally, whereas in 2023, 21%, *strongly disagreed* in 2023. Overall, 56% of respondents *disagreed* with the statement; student-facing (65%), BIPOC (62%), and ciswomen (63%) *disagreed* with the statement at higher rates.

One-fifth (21%) of respondents have considered leaving Clark because of challenges related to diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus. Stated differently, four in ten staff (39%) feel they have to work harder than colleagues/co-workers to achieve the same recognition.

Staff respondents report that Clark prioritizes recruitment of historically marginalized students, faculty, and staff over retention. In their open-ended comments, staff respondents advocated for greater pay equity and active efforts to recruit and retain staff. This was particularly the case among half of the recommendations that respondents of color made (20 of 38).

"Better pay equity across staff members, and more consistent and structured titles and wages."

"Address retention challenges within faculty and staff (staff in particular)."

"Work to improve retention of employees who represent diverse backgrounds."

"Provide more funding for students and staff of color. The staff of color feel like they are stuck in a revolving door. It is not sustainable for the offices that support diversity within our campus community to constantly be losing employees and struggling to hire new ones due to low salaries. The lack of stability in staffing trickles down to negatively affect students who are being supported by these staff members."

#### For Discussion:

- How do we better understand how to address the perception that certain groups feel they have to work harder than others to achieve the same recognition? How do we address this situation?
- Why might certain groups feel they have fewer opportunities for career development and promotion? To what end are biases and discrepancies observed across groups in career development data? And if they are, what might we do to bolster career development supports?
- What conscious and unconscious biases might the University help dig into to better understand perceived opportunities?

In open-ended responses, there remain calls to enhance representation throughout staff responses and retention of staff in general, as well as staff of color.

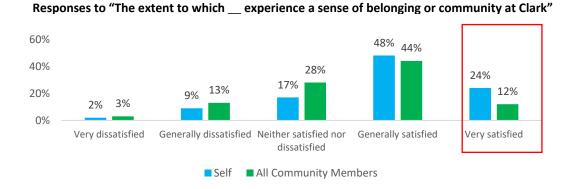
"Hire more diverse staff (not just leadership positions, though that's important) and pay people more equitably. Executive pay is not just a corporate issue."

"Visible efforts toward retention of BIPOC students and staff."

### **Climate: Perceptions of Tension and Calls for Culture Shift**

Only one-third (32%) of staff respondents *agree* that the University is free from tensions related to individual differences. Compared to other respondents, LGBTQIA+ (19%) and politically liberal (21%) respondents are least likely to *agree* with this statement.

Perceptions of tensions at Clark also relate to a discrepancy in the perception of one's own sense of belonging at Clark relative to peers. Approximately half (54%) of respondents perceived their sense of belonging or community to be the same as peers. When asked about the extent to which individuals and all other community members experience a sense of belonging or community at Clark, one-third (36%) of respondents perceive other staff's satisfaction with their sense of belonging to be lower than their own.



Six in ten (60%) staff respondents would feel comfortable sharing their views on diversity. Staff respondents were more vocal about infusing a culture of acceptance of **multiple viewpoints and kindness**. The following are sample comments:

"Eliminate the cancel culture and power students hold over every decision that is made."

"Insist that faculty, staff, and students are **exposed to all sides of an issue**. Not just the side the Administration agrees with."

"I would encourage more opportunities to hear different perspectives across the political spectrum. I find the Clark community is only tolerant of very-left-leaning political views and does not welcome alternative views. It's not that my personal political views are an Issue, but I can sense that people with alternative views would not be welcome at Clark, either as a student or a staff member. That is very unfortunate."

# **Getting Involved in Worcester**

#### For Discussion:

- How can we change the narrative that others have lower levels of satisfaction than one's own sense of belonging?
- How can staff help promote the culture of kindness and civil exchange of diverse beliefs?

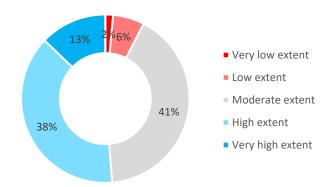
### Over half (56%) of respondents believe that "Clark engages with local communities and

promotes diversity and inclusion beyond the campus" to a high extent. Compared to all respondents, LGBTQIA+ (46%), BIPOC (41%), and especially Hispanic/Latino (36%) respondents agree with this statement at significantly lower rates. A large proportion of respondents believe Clark engages with the community at a moderate-high extent.

Respondents also articulated a greater desire to see faculty and staff "spend time in the surrounding neighborhood and have opportunities to get out of the Clark bubble."

Some respondents also commented on **safety** in relation to community work. While nearly all staff respondents reported feeling safe on

"To what extent do you believe Clark engages with local communities and promotes diversity and inclusion beyond the campus?"



campus (96%), ciswomen respondents were less likely to *agree* they feel safe off campus (67% *agree* vs. 80-82% cismen and non-binary/transgender). One respondent shared the following comment:

"Would love to see us be able to make the area around us feel safer and vibrant and student-focused without fear of being called out for gentrification of our neighborhood. There shouldn't be so many robberies. There should be more wider celebration events — so many one-off lectures we get emails to (last minute) and it's hard to know what to go to; most also don't resonate with me."

### **Discrimination**

One in five (19%) staff respondents reported experiencing discrimination or harassment while at Clark.<sup>1</sup> The most common form of discrimination/harassment faced was being **deliberately ignored**, isolated, left out, or excluded (63%). The second most common form of discrimination was **derogatory remarks** (33%), followed by being **stared at** (30%). LGBTQIA+ staff were more likely to report experiencing derogatory remarks (50%) or social media posts (25%) compared to straight/heterosexual staff.\*

The most common place for discrimination or harassment to occur was in a departmental office or conference room (60%) or in an individual faculty or staff member's office (32%).

#### Respondents Hearing Disparaging Remarks, Discrimination or Harassment by Identity

Respondent Identity & Comment	% Sometimes to Very Often Hearing Disparaging Remark	% Discriminated	Of those Discriminated, % Discriminated in
Category	in Area	or Harassed Ever	Relevant Identity Area
Racial and/or ethnic identity			
BIPOC (N=83)	37%	27%	68%
Non-BIPOC (N=192)	13%	16%	17%
Sexual orientation			
LGBTQIA+ (N=59)	19%	29%	18%
Straight (N=199)	10%	16%	3%
Gender/identity			
Cisman (N=83)	19%	12%	40%
Ciswoman (N=169)	18%	19%	44%
Non-binary and/or transgender (N=10)	70%	60%	33%
Religious background			
Christian (N=100)	16%	16%	13%
Spiritual but not religious (N=35)	6%	17%	0%
Atheist/Agnostic (N=72)	20%	20%	0%
Other religious affiliation (N=25)	36%	24%	33%
Disability			
Has Long-term disability	31%	35%	50%
No Disability	19%	18%	4%
Political affiliation/view			
Conservative (N=11)	27%	18%	<5
Middle-of-the-road (N=73)	13%	15%	36%
Liberal (N=153)	20%	20%	3%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Question: Have you ever been discriminated against or harassed on the Clark campus, at an off-campus **residence**, **or at an off-campus program/event affiliated with [Institution Name]?** Yes, No, Unsure. For the purpose of this survey the category of perceived discrimination or harassment may include various types of bias and/or microaggressions that do not rise to illegal discrimination.

Respondents reported at least *sometimes* (62%) hearing a disparaging remark about an aspect of someone's identity. Staff respondents reported hearing insensitive or disparaging remarks most frequently about people with a **particular political view** (48%) and people of a certain **age group/generation** (30%). The source of these comments was most often students (38%), staff (35%), and the local community (30%). As the above table demonstrates, respondents reported hearing disparaging remarks about their identity at higher rates than other populations. For instance, non-binary or trans respondents reported hearing disparaging remarks about those of a particular gender identity at higher rates (70%) than ciswomen (18%) and cismen (19%). BIPOC respondents (37%) report hearing disparaging remarks toward people of a particular racial identity at higher rates than white respondents (13%).

Compared to other units, respondents in student-facing and operations departments reported hearing disparaging remarks *often* at higher rates.

Staff respondents reported that they would know who to contact to report witnessing or experiencing incidents (80%), as well as the process for reporting acts, though respondents agreed the process was clear to them at a lower rate (52%). Reporting was described as being uncomfortable, not seen as driving possible changes, and supportive of preserving power structures in place or Clark's social acceptance.

"A clear process for an investigation does not take away the impact of voicing concerns related to discrimination. The **victim is typically identified as the problem for voicing the concern**. Specific examples are minimized which further taints the desire to be vocal."

"I doubt anyone would care to hear about discrimination and harassment that does not fit into Clark's existing ideology. Clark doesn't care about these issues if the targets are straight, white, male, and/or Chinese. Some of the most flagrant discrimination is expressed by people whose job descriptions relate to diversity."

"I am frequently interrupted or ignored by a male colleague in meetings on Zoom and in person. I talked to my direct supervisor, who experiences the same thing. We don't report because it **feels trivial in relation to other forms of discrimination**. Also, it would make things very **uncomfortable** if he found out that we reported."

"The senior administration seems to **protect high-level offenders**. This explains, in part, the high level of staffing churn in certain units."

# **Overall Recommendations & Takeaways**

There are many aspects that contribute to respondents' sense of satisfaction with Clark. Overall, 92% of staff respondents report that they are likely to recommend Clark to others, with 41% strongly agreeing that they would recommend Clark. When running multivariate analyses to see what fields are most predictive of recommending Clark, the strongest variables are **feeling a sense of belonging at Clark**, feeling **safe on campus**, and rating satisfaction with the

racial/ethnic diversity of staff. This reinforces the notion that individuals' experiences and considerations of Clark are multifaceted and the sum of many perceptions.

On the whole, the majority of respondents expressed a **strong sense of belonging** at Clark and satisfaction with the climate. Some populations of staff, such as BIPOC, warrant additional follow-up to explore how we can enhance the sense of community, belonging, and career development.

Among open-ended responses, there are clear calls for **greater community** summarized in Appendix B.

It will be important for Clark to acknowledge and recognize findings and areas of improvement, as well as to maintain transparency and monitoring of these areas.

Appendix A. Demographic Distribution of Staff Survey Respondents and Employees

	Survey Response Categories	Staff Respondents		Fall Factbook	
		Count	%	Count	%
Total		275	100%	514	100%
Affiliation	Academic Unit	53	23%		
	Student-Facing	81	35%		
	Administration	83	36%		
	Operations	14	6%		
BIPOC	BIPOC or International	83	30%	154	29%
	White	192	70%	365	70%
Race/ethnicity	White	192	76%	363	70%
/citizenship	African American/Black	15	6%	25	5%
	Hispanic/Latino	11	4%	69	13%
	Asian	7	3%	28	5%
	Multiple races/ethnicities	25	10%	10	2%
	All other races/ethnicities	1	0%	3*	<1%
	International	3	1%	21	4%
Gender	Man (cisgender)	83	32%	220	42%
	Woman (cisgender)	169	65%	292	56%
	Non-binary and/or transgender	10	4%	7**	<2%
Sexual	LGBTQIA+	59	23%		
Orientation	Straight (Heterosexual)	199	77%		
Religious	Christian	100	43%		
Affiliation	Atheist/Agnostic	72	31%		
	Spiritual but not religious	35	15%		
	Other religious affiliation	25	11%		
Political	Conservative	11	5%		
Orientation	Middle-of-the-road	73	31%		
	Liberal	153	65%		
Disability	No Disability	246	94%		
,	Has Long-Term Disability	17	6%		
How do you	Primarily or entirely remotely	15	6%		
work at this institution?	Split between on campus and remotely	98	39%		
	Primarily or entirely on campus	138	55%		
How long have	Less than 1 year	36	14%		
you worked at	1–4 years	97	39%		
this institution?	5–9 years	52	21%		
	10 or more years	66	26%		

Note: Institutional data from Banner as of October 2023 HR census. Note that survey responses < 5 are not displayed and are grouped with other categories. \*Based on the Factbook, all other races/ethnicities includes American Indian staff. In the survey, unknown race/ethnicity is grouped into all other races/ethnicities.\*\*As of the time of the Fall 2023 Factbook, the University did not collect gender identity. If gender is coded as "N" in Banner, it is interpreted as unknown or non-binary.

# Appendix B. Summary of Themes from Recommended Actions to Improve Community, Diversity and Inclusion

Area of Improvement	Direct Quotes
Community-building	- "More campus-wide events"
events and activities	- "Get-togethers/trainings for administrative staff."
	- "Having more events that allow students to interact with BIPOC
	community, especially with BIPOC staff and faculty."
	- "Having students of different backgrounds find other ways to connect
	with each other."
	- "Hold more events to let people interact, and offer more convenient
	training sessions about DEI."
Inclusive Hiring &	- "Continue to promote and engage in hiring practices in which the
Retention Practices	university's faculty/staff is reflective and representative of the diversity
	of the student body."
	- "Hiring more of people of color, and actively searching for people of
	color for all levels and positions."
	- "Provide assistance to hiring managers to improve diversity through
	hiring."
	- "As mentioned, continued hiring and admission practices."
Climate Welcoming of	- "Less emphasis on personal identity and more on Clark community
Diverse Beliefs	spirit"
	- "Figure out a way to promote diverse ways of thinking"
	- "While Clark is doing good work towards creating a culture of empathy
	and diversity, it must be careful to avoid becoming an echo chamber
	and remain an open to ideas and perspectives that challenge even its
	own conventions."
	- "Emphasize kindness, compassion and understanding towards one
	another within Clark structure."
Financial Support for	- "Pay low-level employees more, economic mobility."
Diverse Groups	- "Pay staff in student support roles such as the ISEA Office and the
	Admissions Office a more livable wage."
	- "Actually recruit, hire, and retain faculty and staff from diverse
	backgrounds"
Continuous DEI Training	- "Have deep cultural competency training — hold people
and Support & Initiatives	accountable."
	- "DEI programs and training should make a point to allay concerns that
	new employees may have when first exposed to this material"
	- "Support all units on campus to engage in goal-setting and action-
	planning on how to support diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives."
	- "Create a 'dashboard' report of initiatives, and progress toward
	goals, permitting comparison year by year."
Administration	- "We need institutional leadership that has the capacity to lead and
Leadership	center equity in their actions, behaviors, language, and leadership
	style. This is currently not the case — there is a lack of open-
	mindedness, insular approaches to leadership, old-school conservative
	approaches to DEI that are no longer appropriate, and narrow views on
	what Clark should/could be in ways that often contradict the values and
	spirit of students, furthering a disconnect. One training every few years
1 1 0	won't create the learning needed to effect change."
Local Community	- "Develop a fund for local organizations. Partner more with
Engagement	community."

# Structural Changes and Support to Specific Populations and Offices

- "High-ranking staff could do more community service in the city."
- "I would like to see more supports in place for international graduate students."
- "A stronger financial commitment to our academic support services... (academic support, care team, student accessibility services...)."
- "Increase financial aid for students; renovate buildings and signage for easier access for folks who use mobility assistive devices..."
- "I feel that sensitivity to **disabilities is underrepresented...**Neurodiversity is a difficult issue that isn't really discussed."
- "More opportunities for **staff-based affinity spaces** and connection with folks with shared identities across departments, since it can feel very isolating to be the only person with one's identities within a particular department/office."
- "Ask community members what they are missing from the community. Provide a **space for gathering together** as a campus community often."