Bethel affirms commitment to provide safe campus for students and employees

*January 10, 2017*

In 1886, three men stood on a knoll and surveyed a great sea of prairie grass — the center of an immigrant community that stretched for miles in all directions. Despite their differences, these people shared a commitment to educating their children. That meant a local college. Bethel College.

More than 125 years later, the ideal of a diverse community united through the search for knowledge still guides Bethel College. Being an open, welcoming community leads Bethel’s vision for the future, which is grounded in our historic values of service, peace and social justice, and diversity.

Bethel College holds steadfastly to these ideals. We recognize that today’s political climate causes concern to members of our community, particularly those in marginalized groups. Bethel College administration with the support of the Board of Directors will continue to do everything within its legal and moral authority to protect its students and employees — regardless of immigration status, religious or ethnic background, or sexual orientation. Bethel College will:

* maintain supportive admissions and hiring practices, which prohibit discrimination and do not require proof of citizenship;
* uphold existing privacy policies, which protect student data and employee records from being seen by anyone, including immigration officers, unless required by subpoena or court order, or authorized by the student or employee;
* carry on recent initiatives and programs, which work toward providing members of our campus community with a safe and equitable environment.

During these times that challenge our values, Bethel College commits to being even more diligent in our efforts to “prize compassion and concern for the powerless, … [and] commitment to a peaceful and just society,” and to value “all individuals for their unique combination of heritage, personality and talents.”