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1992

## President's March Statement on LGBT Equality

Robert L. Carothers

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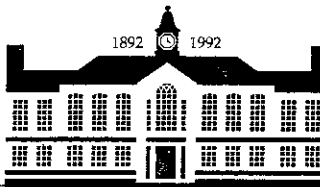
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## CENTENNIAL

University of Rhode Island  
Office of the President

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 2, 1992  
**TO:** Members of the University Community  
**FROM:** Robert L. Carothers  
President   
**SUBJECT:** Affirmation of Diversity

The University of Rhode Island is a community comprised of great diversity, and that is as it should be. We are a people whose complexions are black and brown and white; we are Muslims, Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Buddhists, atheists and more. We came to America from Ireland, Italy, Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, Syria and a myriad of other homelands. Many of us are physically challenged.

We are also a community of heterosexual, bisexual, gay and lesbian people. These differences too need to be understood.

The University's official policy with regard to discrimination is clear:

"The University of Rhode Island prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, color, creed, national origin, handicap, or sexual orientation, and discrimination against disabled and Vietnam era veterans in the recruitment, admission or treatment of students; the recruitment, hiring or treatment of faculty and staff; and the operation of its activities and programs."

This policy clearly prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Our goal within this community, however, is not merely to avoid discrimination. Rather, it is our goal to respect the dignity of each individual and to affirm the right of each member of this community to lead his or her life free of fear or harassment. Sexual differences, like other differences, are important aspects of URI's rich cultural diversity.