



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

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AAU STATEMENT ON SUPREME COURT DECISION IN FISHER V. UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Following is a statement by Hunter Rawlings, President of the Association of American Universities, on today's Supreme Court decision in Fisher v. University of Texas.

Given that the Supreme Court has returned the case of *Fisher v. University of Texas* to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals for further review, a definitive decision by the Court remains for another day. AAU is pleased that the ruling does not overrule the Bakke, Grutter, or Gratz decisions, and leaves in place prior rulings that the educational benefits of broadly defined diversity are a compelling interest for those colleges and universities that judge such diversity to be important to achieving their educational missions.

AAU and its member institutions believe that diversity—of ethnicity, race, socioeconomic background, gender, experience, and other factors—substantially increases the quality and value of education for all students, as well as the contributions that higher education can make to the nation and the world. As we seek to prepare students for the opportunities and challenges of life, citizenship, and leadership in the 21st century, the educational value of students of all backgrounds learning together and from each other is more important, not less. Ethnicity and race are among many factors that provide a context for an individual's experience and identity.

Our universities will continue to seek diversity, and will carry out these efforts within the law.

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The [Association of American Universities](http://www.aau.edu) is a nonprofit association of [60 preeminent U.S. research universities and two Canadian counterparts](#). Founded in 1900, AAU focuses on national and institutional issues that are important to research-intensive universities, including funding for research, research and education policy, and graduate and undergraduate education.

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