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Dr. Kevin M. Guskiewicz
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Office of the Provost
CB #3000
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3000

Dr. Christopher Clemens
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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Dr. Bob Pleasants,
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
Office of Undergraduate Research
CB# 3504
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3504

12 January 2023

Dear Dr. Guskiewicz, Dr. Clemens, and Dr. Pleasants,

I'm writing to praise your decision to update the Fellowship for Exploring Research in Nutrition from accepting only "Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC)" to accepting applicants of all races.

Every person, regardless of background, has unique talents which help enrich academic and professional programs. As Pace Sagester, UNC's Media Relations Manager, recently told a media outlet, "a diverse student body is vital to fostering academic excellence, helping to broaden understanding among people of all backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences, spurring innovation and preparing engaged citizens and future leaders."¹ The idea of equality is one of the reasons America is great.

Yet, we at *Our America* find it concerning that the same vigor for equality is not extended to three scholarships that seem to be only available to minority students.²

¹ <https://dailycaller.com/2022/12/20/university-civil-rights-complaint-discriminatory-fellowship/>

² <https://freebeacon.com/campus/with-affirmative-action-program-under-scrutiny-unc-backs-racially-exclusionary-scholarships/>

Just as you recently declared, programs that are not open to everyone do not align with the University of North Carolina's commitment to equality. The scholarships do not align with UNC's vision and mission. There is no difference between a program that excludes white applicants from a scholarship open only to minority students.

But equally troubling, the scholarships are in direct violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. As a public institution, your programs and scholarships should benefit everyone in your community, not just a subgroup of the people you serve – these current scholarships fail in that respect.

Four years before the passage of the Civil Rights Act, and just 50 miles from the Chapel Hill campus, four brave Black Americans sat down at a "whites only" lunch counter at Woolworth's in Greensboro, North Carolina. They were refused service, but their peaceful sit-in inspired a nation. Discrimination was wrong then, and it's wrong now, no matter your skin color.

Programs and scholarships that exclude certain people are never inclusive. We urge you to update the scholarships by opening them to all students regardless of race.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriel Nadales', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gabriel Nadales
National Director
Our America