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## **Stronger together**

In this class, we all treat one another with respect. We are all different in many ways, but at the core, we are all human.  Our humanity and our diversity are fundamental to building a successful learning community in this class, in the EML Department, on the whole campus, and in the world. We vary in our ethnic and cultural backgrounds, gender expressions, sexualities, religious and political views, ages, financial circumstances, abilities, veteran status, and on, and on, and on. Each of these facets of our identities shapes our lived experiences, perspectives on learning and schooling, and our core values.  This diversity fuels excellence and better understanding of the world. Admitting that none of us are perfect, we commit to working together to promote diversity, inclusion, and respect. Each of us is responsible for creating a safe, open, and open-minded environment for all others in the class.  I urge you to have courage to speak up if you are uncomfortable in class and seek redress.  I also encourage you to be mindful of others' identities, cultures, and values at all times, and to do your utmost to be respectful of them. It is only by committing to inclusion and justice that we can have an inclusive and just world. Peace.