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Tradition to Transition:

As we are celebrating the Bicentennial of Centre College, we have been reminded of the amazing and historic things that Centre has accomplished, characteristic of a campus culture to be and do our best. From taking stances on women in education and choosing to be one of the first institutions in the southern United States to integrate, Centre stands as an exemplar to other liberal arts colleges.

My question, however, is how do we account for 200 years of great history but also transition to a place of accommodation for the great changes happening in our community? “Tradition to Transition”, my running campaign, seeks to call to the front of your mind all the great things you’ve seen Centre as an institution and as a community accomplish. In what capacity can we transition and continue this great work? Will it be in **renewing efforts of sustainability** that are already underway, putting in more water refilling stations as I’ve heard requested from many students? Will it be through **offering funding and further support for the various affinity groups** we have in our community, therefore promoting diversity and inclusion? Will it be the **creation of gender-neutral bathrooms and dorms, providing a safe space for the LGBTQ+ members of our community?**

Diversity and Inclusion:

In the past year, working as the DSU President as Centre has been going through transitions and redefining what Diversity and Inclusion looks like on our campus, I have reached a critical understanding that work is already being done, we are making progress as a campus. We have a strong Diversity Office that has done well to usher out many projects and trainings that are adding necessary depth. There are amazing student ambassadors that are working vigorously, but unfortunately not together. There exists an obvious fragmentation in the across campus affinity work being done. **To address this need, I am currently, along with my exec, working to change the constitution of DSU to better serve in the capacity our campus needs, as a facilitation board for different groups.** Within the next school year, DSU will have a completely different model.

Sustainability:

Students at Centre care immensely about our environment and it shows! The institution also shares in this sentiment, making it known in our Statement of Purpose. Our President, John A Roush, is a charter signatory of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, so this campus wide commitment is public. There are many targets that come from this commitment, but I would argue we are falling short on **integrating sustainability into the curriculum and educational experience and making the chain of reduce, reuse and recycle more readily available to students.** When students arrive on our campus, they should realize that this is an important point of cultivation in our community. We don’t have in dorm recycling bins, which is unreasonable. We are not engaged in the greater Danville- Boyle County community in sustainability initiatives. Many students have complained about the **lack of solar panel use on campus buildings.** We have made the commitment, so let’s further the work.

Thank you for your investment in this campus and I hope we can do great work together!

