

**WESTMONT COLLEGE'S COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY**  
*based on excerpts from the 1995 Long Range Plan*

*Westmont strives to be a community informed and enriched by thoughtful and intentional study of and interaction with multiple cultures. As a liberal arts college rooted in Christ, we celebrate diversity as an aspect of God's creation; we strive to create community out of rich diversity as an aspect of building God's Kingdom in the world; we value the range of perspectives on the world that stimulates intellectual and personal growth; and we seek for faculty and staff to apprentice students in the art of dealing with diversity in constructive ways. It is an aim of Westmont to prepare graduates who will function intelligently, effectively and for the good of our increasingly intercultural world.*

From Long Range Plan Excerpts

**The Educational Challenge**

One's view of the world, including one's understanding of the Christian faith, is profoundly shaped and at times severely limited by one's own particular history and culture. Because of this, an important dimension of self-understanding and self-criticism must include being a community informed and enriched by thoughtful and intentional study of and interaction with cultures other than our own.

**The Rationale for Greater Diversity**

As a Christian institution, we have special reasons for celebrating diversity as an aspect of God's creation, and for striving to create community out of rich diversity as an aspect of building God's Kingdom in the world.

As a liberal arts institution, diversity contributes to a more interesting and more stimulating intellectual environment. To the extent that diversity of gender, ethnicity, class, etc. among students, staff and faculty brings together a range of perspectives on the world, it is valuable for stimulating intellectual and personal growth.

As an institution that is committed to preparing students to live compassionate lives in the world, and to give leadership both within and outside of the evangelical world, our commitment to diversity is part of creating an environment where students can be helpfully apprenticed in the art of dealing with diversity in constructive ways.

**The Aims of a Westmont Education**

Our world has increasingly become interconnected and interdependent, despite deep divisions and antagonisms. To prepare people to function intelligently, effectively and for the good in a world of global politics, global economics, and global communications must be one of the aims of a Westmont education.

Such an education can play a significant role in transforming lives and putting students on a trajectory that will yield, over time, graduates who are characterized by a range of valuable knowledge, helpful skills and positive attitudes – graduates with:

- Knowledge about the world in which God has placed them.
- Interpersonal competence that enables them to participate in dialogue, work with a group, and be characterized by tolerance and appreciation of differences.
- The resources and skills necessary to handle tensions that arise between Christian faith and other seriously argued positions, to live confidently yet self-critically, in a world of competing ideologies.
- Broad and expansive sympathies, including concerns for the spiritually lost, the homeless and hungry, those suffering from racial and gender prejudice, and the destruction of our biotic, cultural and sociopolitical environments.
- The knowledge, skills and motivation to be effective participants in the civic, charitable and cultural lives of their communities.