



George Tyson &lt;georgestyson@gmail.com&gt;

---

**FW: The Woke Ideology of Wofford College**

---

George Tyson <georgestyson@gmail.com>  
To: George Tyson <georgestyson@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 16, 2021 at 1:43 PM

**From:** Dickie [mailto:rlm47@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 1, 2020 8:12 PM  
**To:** SamhatNH@wofford.edu; coakes@otodevelopment.com

**Subject:** The Woke Ideology of Wofford College

Dear Dr. Samhat and Board of Trustees,

My name is Richard (Dickie) L. Myers. I am a 1969 graduate of Wofford with a BA in history followed by a MD from the Medical College of Georgia. I have practiced medicine for 40 years in the area of women's health. I have cared for people from all walks of life; rich, poor, white, people of color, heterosexual, lesbians, educated, uneducated, third world, and military personnel have all been patients that I have had the honor and privilege to serve.

My worldview is Christian theism. I believe there is an intelligent God who created, ordered and upholds this universe. He created mankind in His image and therefore every individual person has dignity and worth. He has given us absolute morals to live by, but we are flawed as human beings and fail in many ways. I believe strongly in the ideals found in the Declaration of Independence of equality before the law and the endowment of certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Our constitution has codified these ideals into a framework of government to prevent tyranny and protect individual rights from the actual government. As we try to form a more perfect union we, the people, have made mistakes but America is not a mistake.

With the above background of who I am and what I believe there are some concerns I want to express about the rhetoric coming from Wofford's leadership and faculty on some of the cultural issues in our society.

First, there is a definite void in defining the concepts of justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, equality, and liberty in the statements espoused by Wofford. We live in an Orwellian world where language manipulation is real. Words do not necessarily mean what one thinks and therefore you need to **define what you mean for clarity**. A few examples for explanation. **Justice and equity**\_\_ do you mean fairness from bias and favoritism or do you mean "guaranteeing" an equal outcome through manipulation and adjustment of certain parameters. (Reparations to achieve equal outcome) What do you mean by **liberty/freedom**? Is it autonomous self-law or is it the exercise of free choice within the boundaries of purpose and truth? **What is truth**? Is it that which conforms to reality or ones feelings or preference?

There needs to be clear definitions of words like tolerance, racism, and systemic. Racism defined as bias or prejudice against a person or people group based on skin color, ethnicity, gender, etc. is real but evidence that it is systemic, that is a feature of an entire system, nation, institution, or profession, is lacking. Systematic would be a better description as this is indicative of an organized, deliberate pattern of behavior. I am always amazed how we throw around words like system, society, and culture as if they are entities unto themselves. They are made up of flawed individuals, you and me. I am the problem, you are the problem! Racism is individual, not systemic.

Of greater concern to me is what I have read in the official statements made by 7 different departments of study at Wofford that are posted on the Wofford web site. While some accurate and valid statements have been made there are also inaccuracies, but more disturbing is the unified theme of all these statements is that of **Critical Race Theory**. As recent as 10/26/2020 the department of English has posted a faculty position for an Assistant Professor in New Southern Studies with at least a subfield in subjects like **Critical Race Theory**, **Queer South**, **Black Feminism**. Is this what Wofford education has come to? Does Wofford not care or does it actually support **Critical Race Theory**?

**Critical Race Theory** is a Marxist ideology promoting the concept of the oppressor/exploiter versus the oppressed/exploited. While originally applied to the realm of economics with the owner versus the worker this ideology has been hijacked and applied to culture through the influence of two Communist, Antonio Gramsci and Herbert Marcuse. Identity politics is at its core pitting one group against another; white against people of color, males against females, heterosexuals against homosexuals and transgender, native citizens and legal immigrants against illegals, etc. This ideology promotes to "tribalism" and creates conflict and division not unity.

Out of this comes the requirement of "accountability statements", confessions of guilt, promise of reparations, and "anti-whatever" sensitivity training/reeducation/indoctrination. An eight billion dollar plus Diversity and Inclusion business has been born in which race baiters like Robin DiAngelo of White Fragility fame, Ibram Kendi, and Ta-Nehisi Coates have become millionaires peddling their goods. This despite many studies of anti-bias tools finding little evidence of any positive impact. (1)

References and links on the Wofford web site seem to support only these views. Where are the voices of other African American scholars like Dr. Shelby Steele, Dr. Thomas Sowell, Dr. Walter Williams, Larry Elder or Candace Owens. They don't believe the plight of blacks is due to systemic racism or police brutality but to poor quality education and the absence of black fathers in the home. They actually have data to support this. What is Wofford doing to combat these issues? Where are their voices in the Wofford community? Their absence reveal much about Wofford's true idea of inclusion.

The straw that broke the camel's back for me however was the endorsement by the Physics and Philosophy departments of the Black Lives Matter Organization. This is a self-admitted Marxist organization that is anti-American, anti-family, anti-Semitic, and anti-police. Their goal is to destroy America.

For all the above reasons I am withdrawing my meager but consistent financial and emotional support from Wofford. I will no longer send money or encourage prospective students to attend a college that endorses these divisive and anti-American ideas. If the Wofford decides to get back into the business of teaching students how to think in order to find truth, beauty and goodness in this world rather than indoctrinating them with woke Marxist ideology I will reconsider my support. In the meantime I will divert my money to causes that contribute positively to society such as supporting the homeless, fighting sex-trafficking, helping battered women, and abused orphaned children.

Sincerely,

Richard L Myers, class of 1969

(1) Prejudice Reduction: What Works? A Review, *Annu. Rev. Psych.* 2009:60, 339-67.