



TO: University of Idaho Students, Faculty and Staff
FROM: Chuck Staben, President
DATE: Nov. 1, 2018
SUBJECT: Posters Do Not Reflect U of I Culture

This morning, a number of signs were posted on the Moscow campus with the slogan, “It’s OK to be white.” Those signs placed on public bulletin boards will remain as this is free expression of the poster’s belief, just as are other postings on those boards. Posters not on bulletin boards, but on doors, walls, or similar locations will be removed as would any other poster on an unauthorized surface (APM 40.29).

The slogan, “It’s okay to be white,” though seemingly innocuous, is associated with a provocation by white supremacists and [neo-Nazi groups](#). I am disappointed to see such expression on our campus. The value, “Respect” and our effort to “Cultivate a valued and diverse community” are parts of our Strategic Plan. So, while we can agree it is okay to be white, brown, rich, poor, gay, straight or any number of other identities...and while we respect the right to free expression...we as a community, and certainly I, as your President (and as an individual) do not value this divisive and provocative form of speech.

Chuck Staben
President

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