Principles of Community

We are an organization of diverse individuals possessing a variety of perspectives, identities, and lived experiences. We recognize that to create an inclusive and intellectually vibrant community, we must understand and value both our individual differences and collective similarities. The Principles of Community are aspirational statements that embody this commitment and reflect the ideals we seek to uphold. Therefore, we adopt and practice the following principles as fundamental to our ongoing efforts to increase access and inclusion and to create a community that nurtures learning and growth for all of its members:

*We affirm* the inherent dignity and value of every person and strive to maintain a climate for work and learning based on mutual respect and understanding.

*We affirm* the right of each person to express thoughts and opinions freely. We encourage open expression within a climate of civility, sensitivity, and mutual respect.

*We affirm* the value of human diversity because it enriches our lives and our organizations. We acknowledge and respect our differences while affirming our common humanity.

*We reject* all forms of prejudice and discrimination, including but not limited to, those based on age, color, diverse ability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, and veteran status. We take individual and collective responsibility for helping to eliminate bias, and discrimination and for increasing our own understanding of these issues through education, training, and interaction with others.

*We pledge* our collective commitment to incorporate these principles into MACC’s mission and strategic plan.