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## As Election Approaches, Hodges University Sets an Example for Diversity & Dialogue

**Ft. Myers, FL | Oct. 24, 2016:** This election season has been particularly challenging for our country. We have witnessed strong divisions between constituents. Constructive dialogue has often fallen to the wayside, whether on live TV or on our Facebook newsfeeds at home. How often have we seen, “If you don’t think X, then you can unfriend me right now”?

Americans seem to be spending more time arguing than actually connecting. Rather than seeking ways to work together on shared goals - like how to make America a great place to live for everyone – people appear to be more focused on why the other side is clearly wrong.

Within this climate, Hodges University is once again hosting the Society for Diversity’s Certified Diversity Executive Credentialing Course. This is a course for senior human resources, diversity & inclusion, and organizational leaders to learn how to capitalize on the advantages of diversity in order to build stronger internal cultures that deliver results.

One key component of this course is teaching participants how to work together towards common goals, even when they disagree. This can be uncomfortable, but it truly delivers results. In fact, a recent article in the Harvard Business Review entitled “[Diverse Teams Feel Less Comfortable – And That’s Why They Perform Better](#)” discusses how that discomfort is exactly what produces better outcomes. Even though we perceive the process to be more difficult, we develop stronger strategies and perform better when challenged by others who don’t conform to our usual way of thinking or behaving.

President of Hodges University, Dr. Donald Wortham, is proud to continue Hodges’s focus on strength through diversity and states, "Hodges has, from its founding, championed inclusivity and believes that engaging members of both majority and minority groups is critical to success. We are especially proud to be partnering with the Society for Diversity, which holds the same core philosophy."

In the words of soon-to-be former President Obama, “democracy requires compromise even when you’re 100% right.” This is the essence of the American political system that has been most jeopardized this election cycle. It’s time to stop thinking about why we disagree and how we’re different, and time to start thinking about how we all live in this great country together and how we can continue to make it the best place in the world to live for everyone fortunate enough to be here.

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