

December 16, 2014

Chancellor's Commission for LGBT People
Chancellor's Commission for Blacks
Chancellor's Commission for Women
Council for Diversity and Interculturalism
Office of Disability Services

Colleagues,

I recently received your letter regarding gender-neutral, family-style restrooms. I appreciate your concern in addressing this issue and agree with you that we need to ensure that all members of our campus community feel welcome and safe at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

We currently have 106 gender-neutral, family-style restrooms on campus. I am pleased to report that all new buildings will be designed with gender-neutral, family-style restrooms. In addition, all major renovations that involve restrooms will be designed for gender-neutral, family-style restrooms as long as square footage is available for meeting code requirements. For those existing restrooms not under major renovation, it is much more difficult to address these facilities because of expense and other compliance issues. However, with approximately \$1 billion in ongoing construction, we are transforming the landscape of our campus. By incorporating gender-neutral, family-style restrooms in all new buildings and major renovations, users of these facilities will have convenient access to them wherever they are on campus.

I thank each of you for your important work in addressing this issue. The Chancellor's Commissions, the Council for Diversity and Interculturalism, and the Office of Disability Services play a key role in ensuring that our campus is "welcoming to all and hostile to none."

If I can be of assistance to you, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Jimmy G. Cheek
Chancellor

cc: Chris Cimino, Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration
Rickey Hall, Vice Chancellor for Diversity
Chancellor's Cabinet