

Two cases before the Supreme Court have the potential to restrict long-standing recruitment and admissions practices at colleges and universities. The cases, brought by a special interest group called Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA), allege that race-conscious admissions practices are unfair and violate the Constitution.

As liberal arts college presidents, we strongly disagree. Holistic review of applicants is critical to recruiting a well-rounded class, and that includes consideration of the richness of students' many attributes and interests— including their lived experiences and backgrounds.

While each of our colleges has a unique mission, we all work tirelessly to create the most well-rounded student body possible in a very competitive admissions market. This means not only striving for racial and ethnic diversity, but also—to the extent possible

that restricting race-conscious admissions practices will result in selective colleges and universities becoming less ethnically and racially diverse.

This would be tragic. To educate the next generation of leaders and reduce social inequality, we need to continue rectifying the systemic barriers that have kept so many talented students of color out of the higher education pipeline. Education is an engine for economic mobility. Getting a college degree is the single most powerful thing a person can do to change their life. It's an engine for economic mobility and it's a key to a better life.