

Subject: DEI at VMI

Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 4:54:06 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Irwin McCumber

To: BOVSecretary, Perry, Crystal W, Tyree, Matthew R, 'Matt', cwins2@hotmail.com, Clark, Dallas B

Ladies and Gentlemen -

I am writing today to communicate my concern about the entire "DEI" program at VMI. I don't really care what names you might want to call it - I am against it in all its forms and would like to see it eliminated in its entirety from the Institute. I view it as divisive and totally unnecessary - a waste of hard to come by resources. The Rat Line is the greatest leveler of the playing field I have encountered in my 80 years, and provides an excellent opportunity for all cadets to proceed on their own **merit**. It is **time proven!**

Along this line, I also do not want to see VMI wasting any resources dealing with the transgender nonsense. It is just completely ridiculous and should have no place at VMI.

I am attaching a link to an article published on the STARRS website. Perhaps you are familiar with STARRS - an organization of military officers who are trying to stop the destructive results of incorporating the DEI methodology into our military. This article addressing DEI, was written by Bill Ackman who is a very well known graduate of Harvard. His article is comprehensive and I hope you will take the time to read it, including the comments at the conclusion.

VMI promotes itself as "*No Ordinary College*", and endeavors to produce **honorable leaders** for our country's future. **Real leaders do not take the easy road and just go along with the flow.** Sometimes it is necessary to stand up for what is right, and oppose what is wrong. As a graduate of the Institute, I would like to see more **real** leadership exhibited, and I know I am far from alone in this feeling.

I respectfully submit these comments, and **thank each of you for all you do for the Institute.**

Irwin McCumber '65

[Yet another liberal WAKES UP to what DEI really is | STARRS](#)

