



NADOHE Reflections on the Biden Administration's Build Back Better Federal Initiatives

CONTACT: Debra S. Nolan, CAE
Phone: 800-793-7025, Email: dnolan@nadohe.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2021 - Fort Lauderdale, FL. - As we watch the inauguration of the 46th President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and the installation of the first women, African American, and Asian American Vice President, Kamala Harris we cannot help but be inspired and hopeful at this historical moment. We are hopeful that a new day is upon us, a day that is more just, that will heal our nation and truly work for equity for all. As President Biden said, "This is America's day. This is democracy's day. A day in history and hope of renewal and resolve."

The Biden Administration will take steps to demonstrate this resolve and commitment to equity by outlining several programs that address, rescind, and implement some of our nation's most pressing issues. NADOHE applauds:

- The creation of a Whole-of-Government Initiative to Advance Racial Equity that addresses equity for all;
- The rescinding of the Executive Order that eliminated diversity and inclusion training for government agencies and federal contractors;
- The reversing of President Trump's Executive Order excluding Undocumented Immigrants from the Reapportionment Count and ensuring that the Census Bureau has time to complete an accurate population count for each state;
- The preservation of the Deferred Action for Early Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and a pledge to enact comprehensive immigration reform, providing permanent status and a path to citizenship for people who came to this country as children and have lived, worked, and contributed to the United States for many years;
- The Muslim Ban's reversal by signing an Executive Action ending the ban enacted by the Trump Administration that restricted entry in the country from primarily Muslim and African nations; and,
- The rescinding of the Keystone XL pipeline permit. The Keystone XL pipeline project did not consult with Native Peoples and its impact on Native Tribe's water supply, safety, and way of life, violating previous federal agreements.

- More information on the Administration's initiatives can be found at:
<https://buildbackbetter.gov/press-releases/fact-sheet-president-elect-bidens-day-one-executive-actions-deliver-relief-for-families-across-america-amid-converging-crises/>

Democracy is often fragile, as we saw at the Capitol last week. However, our commitment to creating a more equitable and just society and living up to our ideals as a nation where all people are created equal should always be our aspirational goal. These actions, executive orders, and mandates are an excellent first step in social justice reform. We pledge to work with the Biden Administration on these critical initiatives that work to preserve all people's human rights and dignity and ensure equity for all.

As the pre-eminent voice for chief diversity officers in higher education and with more than 1,100 members representing 750 colleges and universities, NADOHE's mission is to lead higher education towards inclusive excellence through institutional transformation. For more information about NADOHE, visit www.nadohe.org.

#####