

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: January 14, 2022

CONTACT: Dr. Earl Tilford
Email: info@alabamiansaei.org
Phone: 205-579-0421

ALABAMIANS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INTEGRITY CALLS FOR A RETURN TO CLASSICAL EDUCATION

A newly-formed statewide organization dedicated to educational excellence in Alabama has raised important issues about the erosion of academic standards, freedom of speech and equality of opportunity at the University of Alabama.

Alabamians for Academic Excellence and Integrity (AAEI) is a group of concerned alumni and supporters who believe the university's pervasive commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is inimical to traditional values attendant to freedom, liberty, rule of law, personal responsibility, civil discourse, and pedagogy associated with scholarship free from political biases.

Founded as a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization AAEI advocates for a return to education rooted in the classical Western tradition and the purposes which undergird classical education including pursuing truth, preserving and enriching the culture, developing good character and citizenship and ensuring graduates are prepared to succeed in their chosen vocations. AAEI's assertion is that all Alabama educational institutions should be held accountable for upholding the principles and purposes of classical Western education and sees the issue of admitting "Critical Race Theory" in our K-12 schools as a symptom of what has been ailing higher education for decades.

Concerns raised by the group include:

Why, in the *US News and World Report* annual rankings, has the University of Alabama gone from 31st among publicly funded colleges and universities in 2011 to 67th in 2022; and 148th among national universities in 2022?

Why is Diversity, Equity and Inclusion the University of Alabama's primary focus for guiding curricula, student recruiting (resulting in lower admission standards), faculty recruiting and hiring, and faculty promotions?

Spokesman, Dr. Earl Tilford noted, "The University of Alabama's precipitous drop to 67th in the *US News and World Report* rankings is unacceptable and partly attributable to the intense institutional focus on DEI. AAEI seeks to restore the pursuit of academic excellence to its primary place so that Capstone administrators, faculty and students can thrive in an institutional environment valuing content of character over race, gender, class or sexual orientation."

For more information about AAEI visit their website at <https://alabamiansaei.org/>