



BROWN

Dear Members of the Third World Center (TWC) Strategic Planning Committee,

Congratulations on the Committee's exceptional work developing the new strategic plan for the Third World Center, *Visualize. Vocalize. Mobilize.* The inclusive and thorough process produced a compelling report. I expect that the implementation of the plan will strengthen the Center's role in enriching the lives of students of color and facilitating conversations among all members of the Brown community.

One of the main elements of the plan—to re-focus the TWC's energies on communities of color at Brown—makes a great deal of sense. I approve of the new mission statement and agree that renaming the TWC is warranted. Your report makes it clear that the committee consulted widely and thought carefully about renaming the Center. The recommended name—the *Brown Center for Students of Color*—is clear, simple and powerful, and it fits perfectly with the proposed mission statement. As the name of the Center changes, I encourage you to identify ways to honor the Center's rich and important history. I will ask the director of the TWC to work with Brown's communications office to develop a plan for communicating the name change to the Brown community.

The report enumerates four broad priorities for 2014-19 that resonate particularly well: (1) expanding opportunities for identity development, (2) fostering community-building and cross-cultural understanding, (3) providing leadership development and training for community organizing, and (4) enhancing resources and infrastructure. It is interesting that when Brown alumnus and World Bank president Dr. Jim Yong Kim '82 visited campus last year and met with students at the TWC, he touched on each of these areas. He stressed how important the Center was to the development of his own identity; how the TWC provided a community that was meaningful to him; how TWC activities generated leadership opportunities that literally changed his life; and how much he appreciated the physical infrastructure and support that the TWC provided. This strategic plan will help to ensure that the Center continues to serve future generations of Brown students in these important ways.

I have two specific comments that I will ask the TWC to consider as it implements this plan. The first concerns the role of the Center as a campus collaborator. The report identifies two specific growth areas—the development of leadership skills and community partnerships—that are of interest to other campus centers, notably but not exclusively the Swearer Center. I encourage the TWC to develop close collaborations and partnerships with other centers on campus as these program components are developed. This will create financial economies and, even more important, contribute to the strategic objective of building community and cross-cultural understanding within Brown.

The second issue concerns resource development. The report includes a set of proposed investments in staffing and infrastructure. I will be pleased to provide support for two physical improvements noted: card swipe access and improvements to accessibility. I hope this work can be scheduled soon. Although the other proposed investments have merit, they cannot be approved without a more detailed look at the level of expenses and how they can be sustained over time. I will ask TWC Director Mary Grace Almandrez, in consultation with Vice President for Campus Life Margaret Klawunn, to create a budget that can be considered by the Provost.

I am grateful for your work on this strategic plan, and look forward to working with you to ensure the continued success of the Center.

Sincerely,

Christina Paxson