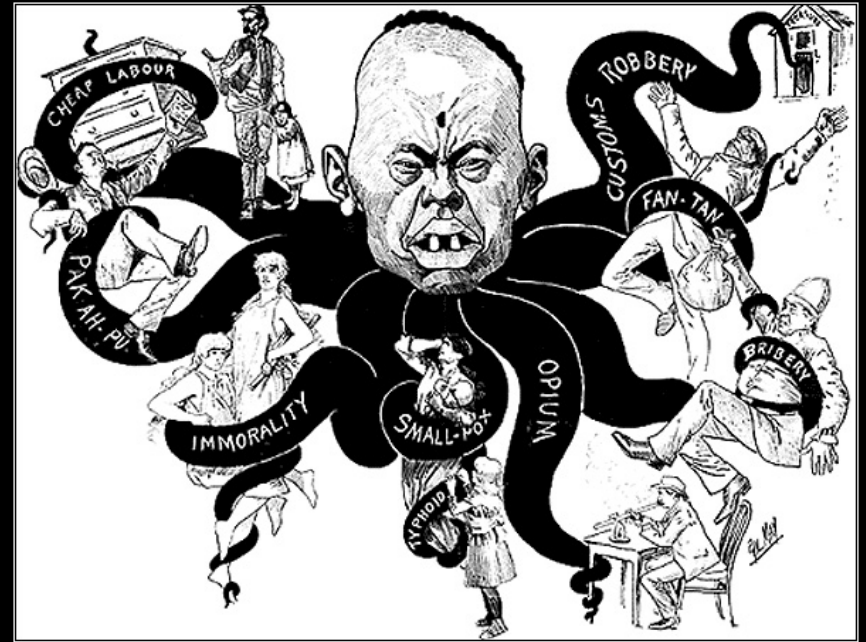


Asian Americans as the Yellow Peril: From Coolie Competition to Covid-19



**Dr. Faye Caronan, Associate Professor
Ethnic Studies**



University of Colorado **Denver**

Asian Americans report over 650 racist acts over last week, new data says

“The deliberate use of terms like ‘Chinese virus’ has definitely fanned the flames of racism toward Asian Americans in this country,” one nonprofit leader said.



Source: NBC News, March 28, 2020



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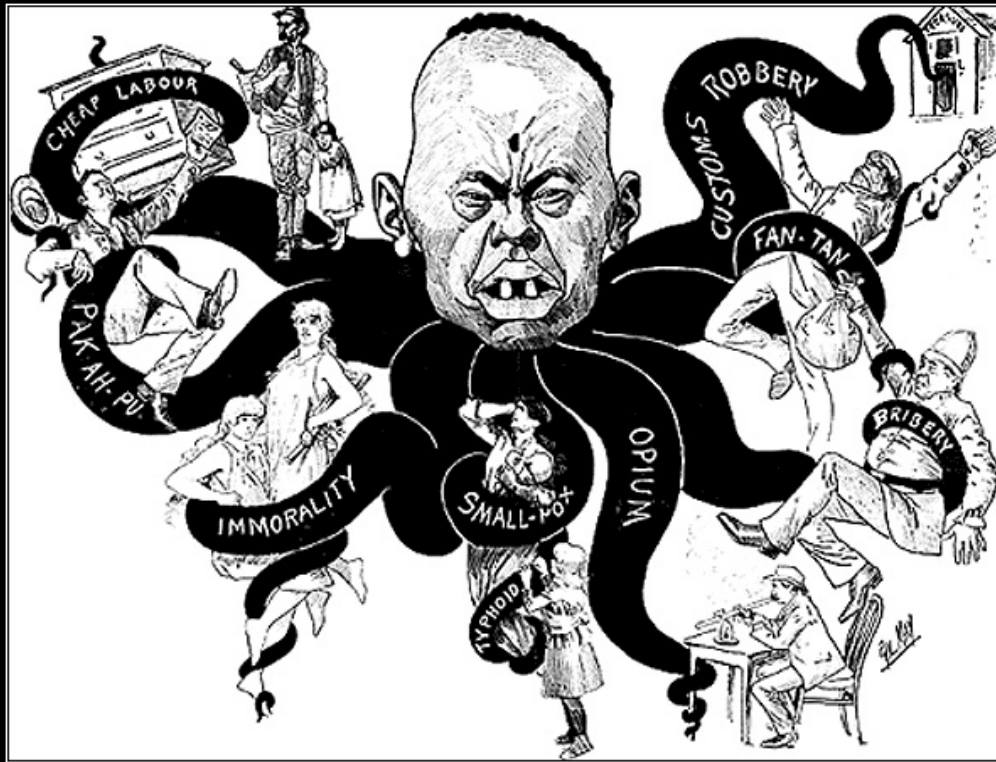
Learning Outcomes

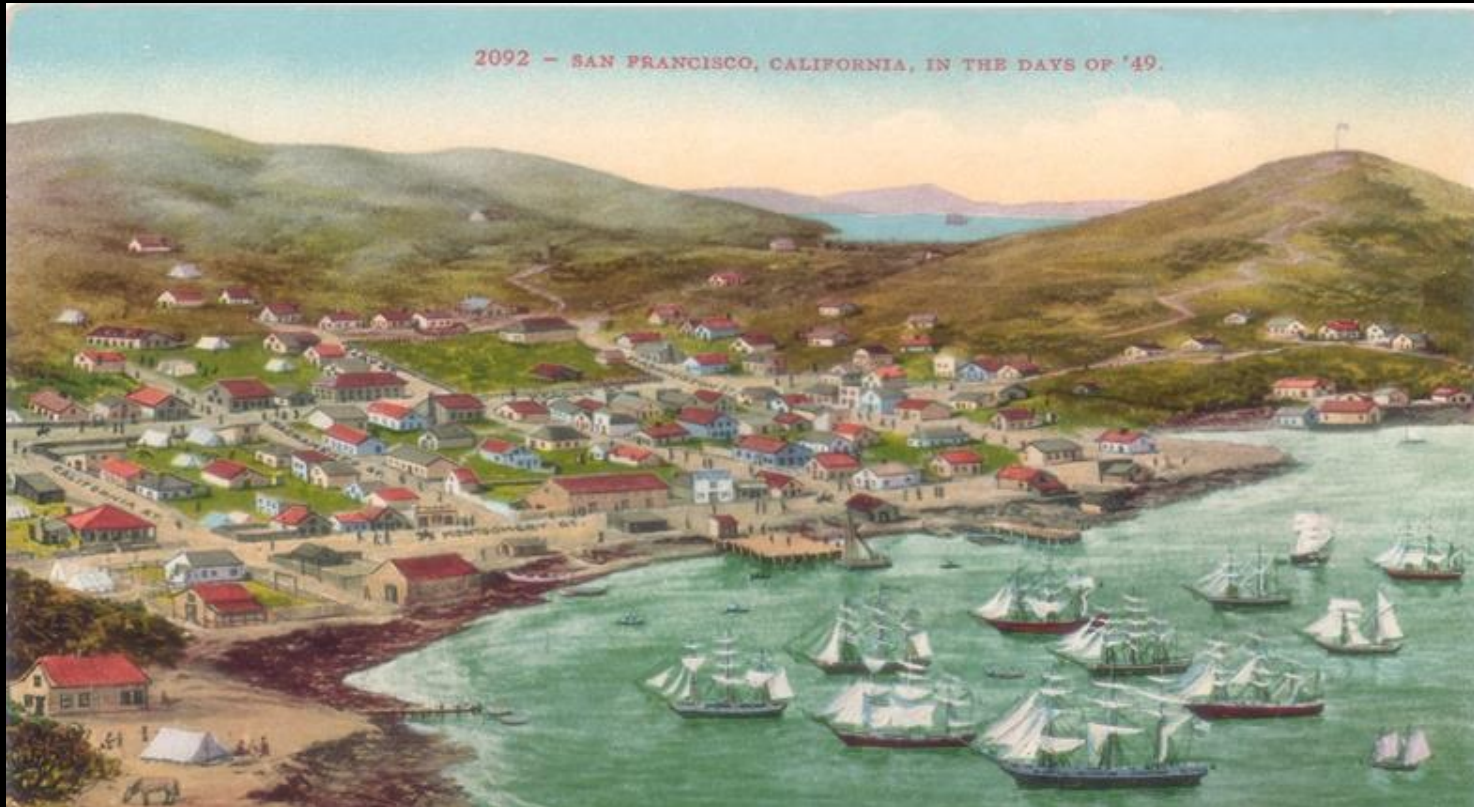
By the end of this webinar, you will be able to

- Define the Yellow Peril stereotypes of Asian Americans
- Explain how these stereotypes result in discriminatory laws and treatment targeting Asian Americans



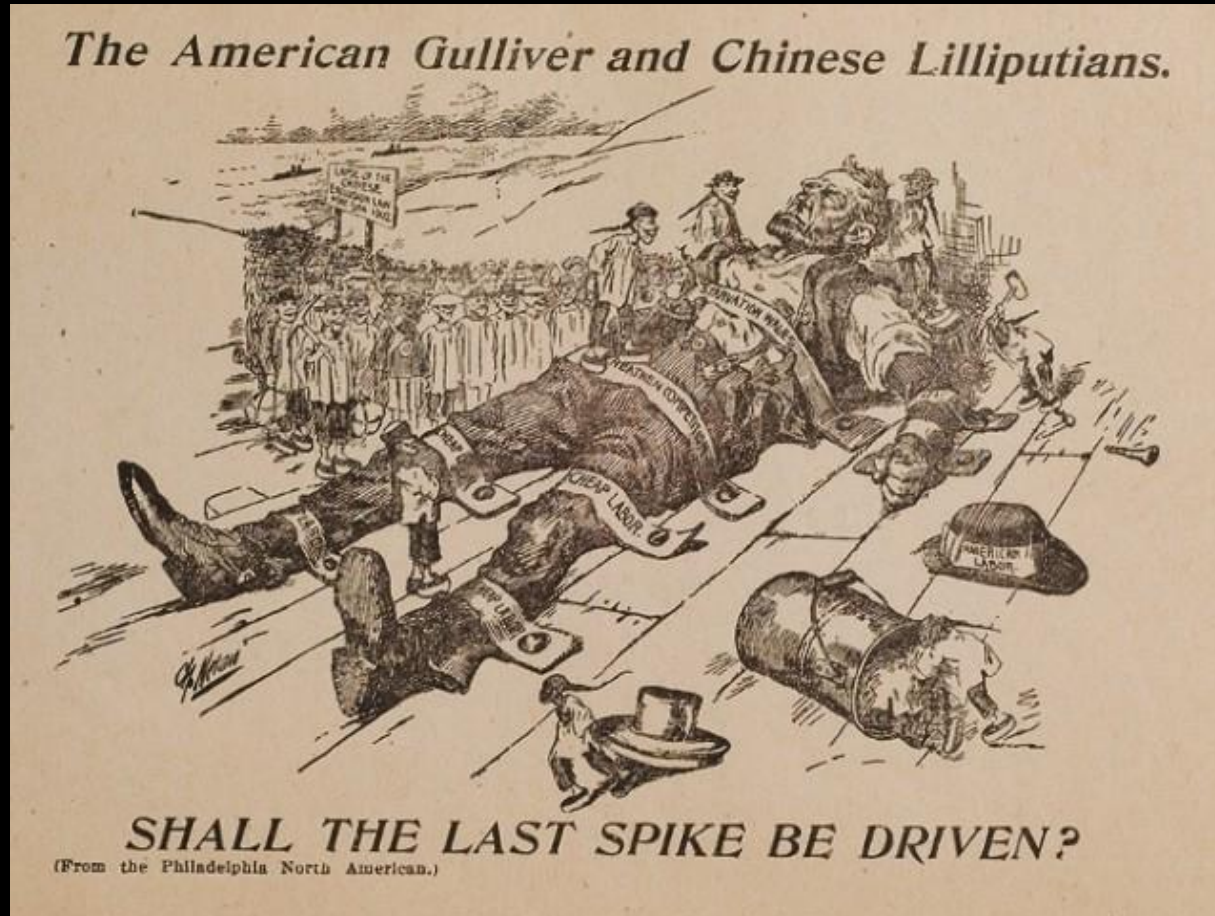
Yellow Peril Stereotype: Asians as a threat to American Civilization





Source: Scott, Mel. *The San Francisco Bay Area*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1959

Threat to White Working Men



Threat to American Morality



Source: Harte, Brett. *The Heathen Chinee*. *Overland Monthly* 1870

Threat to American Hygiene



•Source: New York Public Library



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Threat to American Health



•Source: *The Wasp*. May 26, 1882

Threat to White Nations

Source: MIT Visualizing Cultures:
Yellow Promise, Yellow Peril



CONSEQUENCES OF YELLOW PERIL STEREOTYPE



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1880 Denver Race Riot



Source: Wikimedia Commons



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Asian Immigration Exclusion

- Chinese Exclusion Act
- Gentleman's Agreement
- 1917 Immigration Act
- 1924 Immigration Act
- 1934 Tydings-McDuffie Act/Philippines Independence Act



Extensive Immigrant Screenings



•Source: National Archives



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Bubonic Plague Outbreak Responses, 1899 & 1902



Source: Hawaii State Archives Digital Collection

Impact on Asian American Businesses

Chinese American fruit peddler

Source: El Pueblo Monument Photo Collection



Japanese American family farmers

Source: Densho Digital Repository



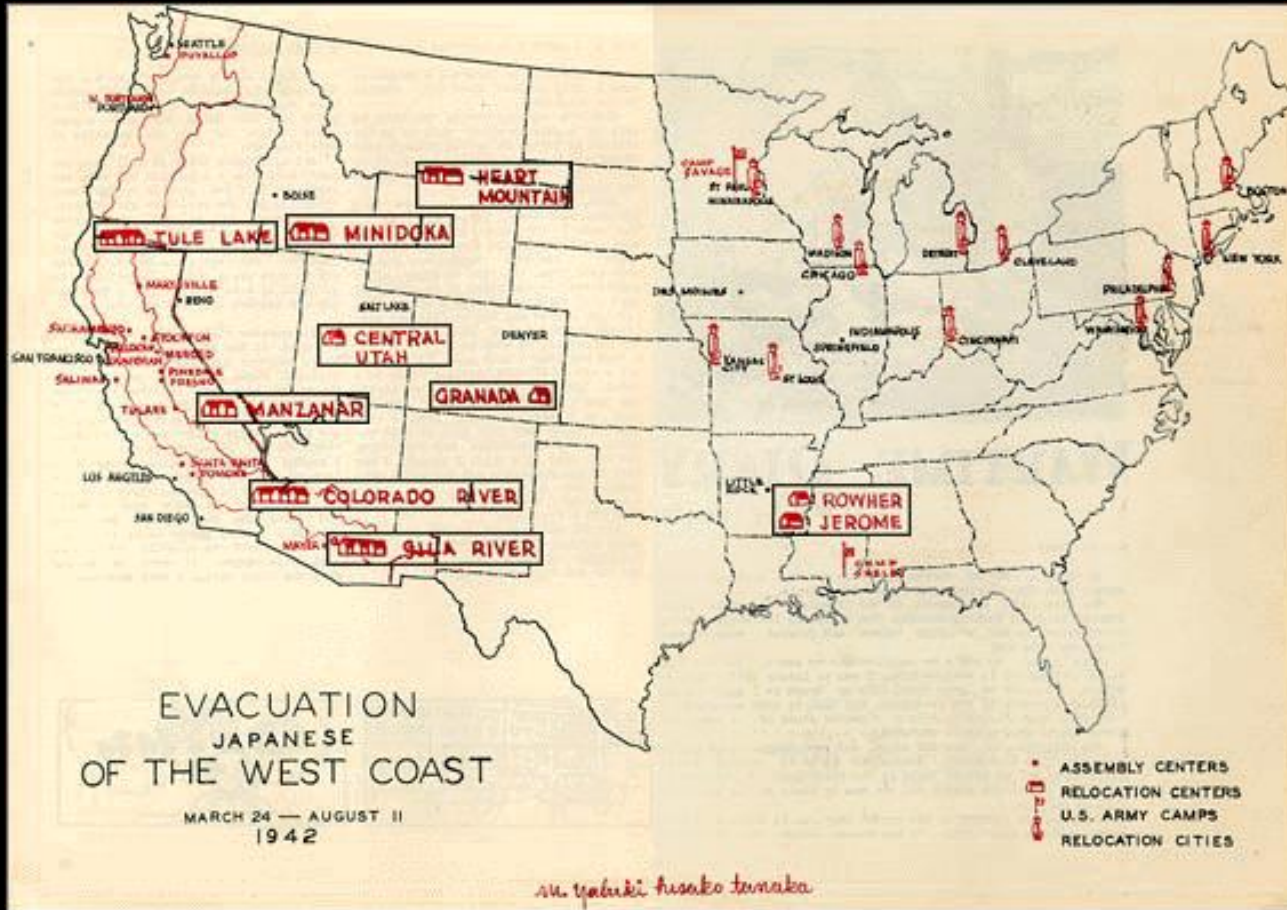
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Aliens Ineligible for Citizenship

Asian immigrants as forever foreigners



Internment of Japanese Americans



Murder of Vincent Chin



Source: Detroit Free Press, July 1, 1982

RECENT YELLOW PERIL EXAMPLES & COVID-19 YELLOW PERIL RESURGENCE



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turning their back on the principles

What's in a name?: WHO Infectious Disease Naming Best Practices

Avoid using

- geographic locations
- people's names
- animal species or food
- cultural, population, industry, and occupational references
- terms that incite fear





Scientists find no direct evidence new coronavirus was spread by humans eating bat soup

Bats are one of many animals known to host many coronavirus and they are on sale at the open air market in Wuhan, China, leading to speculation





Source: Instagram @inmyrunningshoes



Airbnb Host Cancelled This Taiwanese Student's Booking Over Coronavirus Fears

Louise Hsin-Yuan Peng, who had been nowhere near virus danger-zones, said she received a "xenophobic" message after arriving in the UK.



By Kate Forrester

Source: The Huffington Post



Learning Outcomes Review

In this webinar, we have learned

- What the Yellow Peril stereotype of Asian Americans is
- How the yellow peril stereotype has resulted in discriminatory laws and treatment targeting Asian Americans



Allyship and AAPI Resistance



'I am not a virus': France's Asian community pushes back over xenophobia

Asians in France created a Twitter hashtag #Jenesuispasunvirus to push back against racist incidents as a result of coronavirus.



#RacismIsVirus

is a campaign to **RISE UP** against the violence and xenophobia directed at

**ASIANS AND
ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES**

in the wake of the coronavirus
so that all citizens of our country can
LIVE IN DIGNITY AND PEACE.



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Official Statements Matter



Source: Denver Public Library



A screenshot of a Facebook post from Michael B. Hancock, Mayor of Denver. The post includes a profile picture of Hancock, interaction buttons (Like, Follow, Share), and text expressing support for equity and inclusivity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Below the text is a video player showing Hancock speaking.

Michael B. Hancock 
 @5280mayor

Home

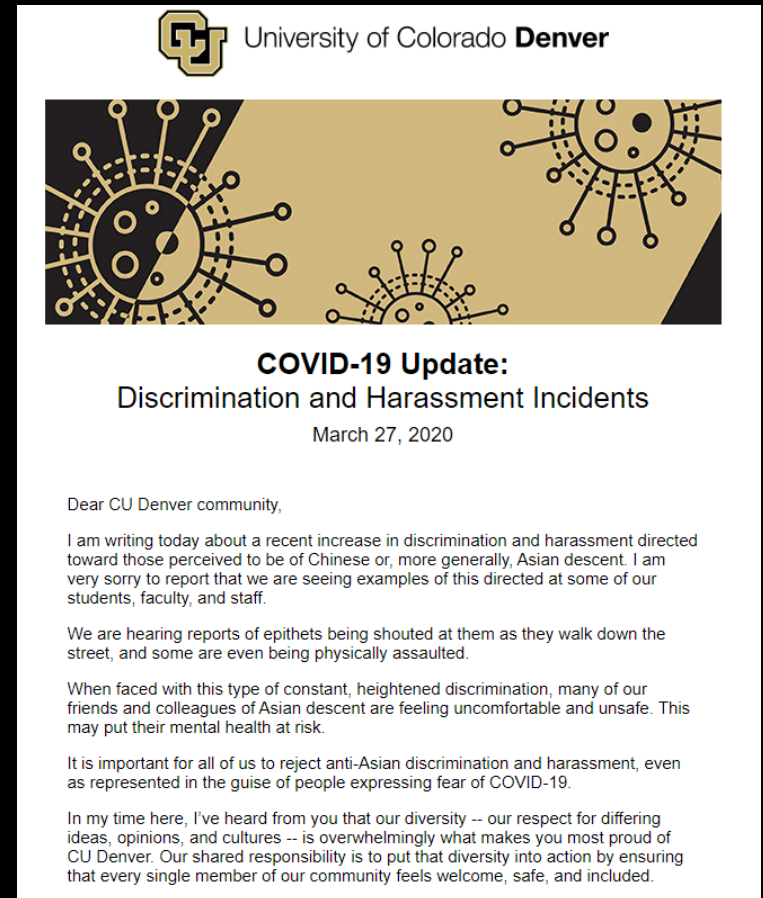
- About
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In Denver, we value equity and inclusivity- and we will not tolerate discrimination of any kind.

It's disheartening to learn that at a time like this - when we should all be coming together to fight a common enemy, COVID-19... that we are hearing increasing reports of people in our Asian community being harassed and targeted for this epidemic.

As Mayor of the City and County Denver, I can assure you we will continue to stand up against racism, fear-mongering, and misinformation... [See More](#)

community. Join with me as we do everything we can to protect



A graphic for a COVID-19 update from the University of Colorado Denver. It features the CU Denver logo and stylized virus icons. The text is centered and reads: 'COVID-19 Update: Discrimination and Harassment Incidents, March 27, 2020'. Below the title is a letter to the community.

CU Denver University of Colorado **Denver**

COVID-19 Update:
Discrimination and Harassment Incidents
 March 27, 2020

Dear CU Denver community,

I am writing today about a recent increase in discrimination and harassment directed toward those perceived to be of Chinese or, more generally, Asian descent. I am very sorry to report that we are seeing examples of this directed at some of our students, faculty, and staff.

We are hearing reports of epithets being shouted at them as they walk down the street, and some are even being physically assaulted.

When faced with this type of constant, heightened discrimination, many of our friends and colleagues of Asian descent are feeling uncomfortable and unsafe. This may put their mental health at risk.

It is important for all of us to reject anti-Asian discrimination and harassment, even as represented in the guise of people expressing fear of COVID-19.

In my time here, I've heard from you that our diversity -- our respect for differing ideas, opinions, and cultures -- is overwhelmingly what makes you most proud of CU Denver. Our shared responsibility is to put that diversity into action by ensuring that every single member of our community feels welcome, safe, and included.

Local Statements Against Hate

Individual Allyship



Stand with our
Asian, AAPI
communities



Aim for
compassion and
unity



Interrupting bias—
calling out or in



Refusing to share
misinformation and
rumors



Donate to a
reputable aid
organization



Report It

CU Denver & Anschutz Medical Center
Campus Office of Equity
www.equity.ucdenver.edu

Campus Police Departments

[Auraria Campus PD](#) - 303-556-5000

[CU Anschutz PD](#) - 303-724-2000

Denver Police Department Bias
Motivated Incident Report Call 720-
913-6458
or biascrimesinfo@denvergov.org

Boulder County DA Bias Incident
Hotline 303-441-1595

National AAPI Hate Crime Report
www.standagainsthatred.org



Upstander Training Organizations

[Anti-Defamation League](#)

[Asian American Advancing Justice](#)

[Hollarback](#)

[Southern Poverty Law Center - Teaching Tolerance](#)



Thank you! Any Questions?



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Boulder | Colorado Springs | Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

**ONE GOAL
INCLUSIVITY**