

SCHREINER

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Vol. 3 May 2021

W. C. WEIR ACADEMIC BUILDING

RESILIENT

Resiliency thrives on diversity



Over the last 20 years, the use of the word resilience has jumped significantly in the English language. It originates from a Latin word meaning “to spring back,” and when referring to objects, it means the quality that allows a thing to return to its original shape. We perhaps place more value on this quality now than previous generations, or maybe we recognize its value in ways we did not in the past. Whatever the motivation, English speakers are using the word more frequently now than any time in the past 200 years.

For Schreiner's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Awareness Committee, we believe that diversity and inclusiveness help the community at large become more resilient. We are diverse in a variety of ways and always have been. Throughout Schreiner's near 100-year history, its student body has been made up of international students from seven countries, as well across the U.S. - not just Texas. The diversity does not end with region, because Schreiner students have many racial and/or religious backgrounds. Despite our differences, what binds us together is the Schreiner experience, and how we try to create community.

Resiliency thrives on diversity. Having a variety of perspectives in hand can challenge thinking, or at the very least, foster critical

thinking. The more point of views, the more nimble and flexible solutions there are for problems. Such diversity augments a liberal arts education and our purpose here as a University.

Diversity alone is not enough; inclusivity can also strengthen communities. Inclusive can build respect: an acceptance of those who are different; acknowledging values and beliefs outside of one's own; and to discover that we all partake in the whole through our differences. This mutual respect is the core of civilized society and successful democracy. Being inclusive allows our community to grow, evolve and discover new ways to address challenges. Together, we are greater than

the sum of our parts; we are stronger as a whole.

To conclude, resilience plays a key role for Schreiner graduates to find meaningful work and building purposeful lives in our changing global society. The ability to respond to new challenges and “spring back” decisively is crucial to an array of disciplines and environments. In other words, we all can benefit from diversity and inclusion, given their contribution to resilience. While there may be more crucial connections than those outlined here, what we do know is that diversity and inclusion support us as a community, who we have been, and who we would like to be.



Dr. Adolfo Mora,
Schreiner University
IDEA Committee



Dr. Adrian Zapata,
Schreiner University
IDEA Committee