



Northeastern
University

Belonging at Northeastern

New Faculty Orientation

Richard L. O'Bryant, Ph.D.

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Belonging Begins with US

Belonging is the shared experience of feeling valued, respected, and authentically connected to the Northeastern community.

Inclusion is not just about diversity; it is about creating a sense of belonging for all.

John A Powell



Belonging at Northeastern

Vision – Belonging at Northeastern means having the ability to shape knowledge through experiential learning and competency-based credentials, solve real-world problems through use-inspired research, and create impact locally and globally where every member experiences meaningful connections, contributes their unique expertise, and advances together.

BELONG TO LEARN

“Life-Long Learning
accelerates with belonging”

BELONG TO DISCOVER

“Experiential Education (Co-
op) Innovation requires
inclusion”

BELONG TO IMPACT

“Institutional excellence depends
retaining talent and individuals
flourishing”

Belonging in Action

- Belonging Network (Belonging Leads, Affinity Groups, Cultural Centers)
- Belonging Conferences: 500+ registrants; 95% satisfaction, 13 campuses reached, 61% staff, 34% faculty, 4% individuals Serving in both capacities;
- University-wide Belonging Definition
- Building a Culture of Belonging Conference Oct 2026
- Community College Partnerships (A2M)
- Belonging in the Workplace Course
- Belonging measures Dashboard
- Belonging in Action – Student Version



Belonging Meaning so far ...

Students, belonging means feeling supported academically, socially, and emotionally, with access to resources, opportunities, and relationships that foster personal growth and success.

Staff, belonging involves being appreciated for their essential roles in the campus ecosystem, with equitable opportunities for professional development and meaningful engagement in shaping the campus culture.

Faculty, belonging signifies a sense of academic freedom, respect for their expertise, and inclusion in collaborative efforts to advance knowledge, mentorship, and the institution's mission.

Alumni, belonging extends beyond graduation, as alumni remain engaged through mentorship, events, and institutional traditions that affirm their lifelong connection to Northeastern.

Belonging at Northeastern Goals 2026-2027 and Beyond

- Cross-Network Belonging Partnerships
- Belonging in the Age of AI
- Global Belonging: Scope, Presence, and Impact

Want to Get Involved?

Belonging in Action

SCAN ME





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