



FIND YOURSELF HERE

A Glimpse of the
HGSE Community

HARVARD



GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF EDUCATION

dean's letter

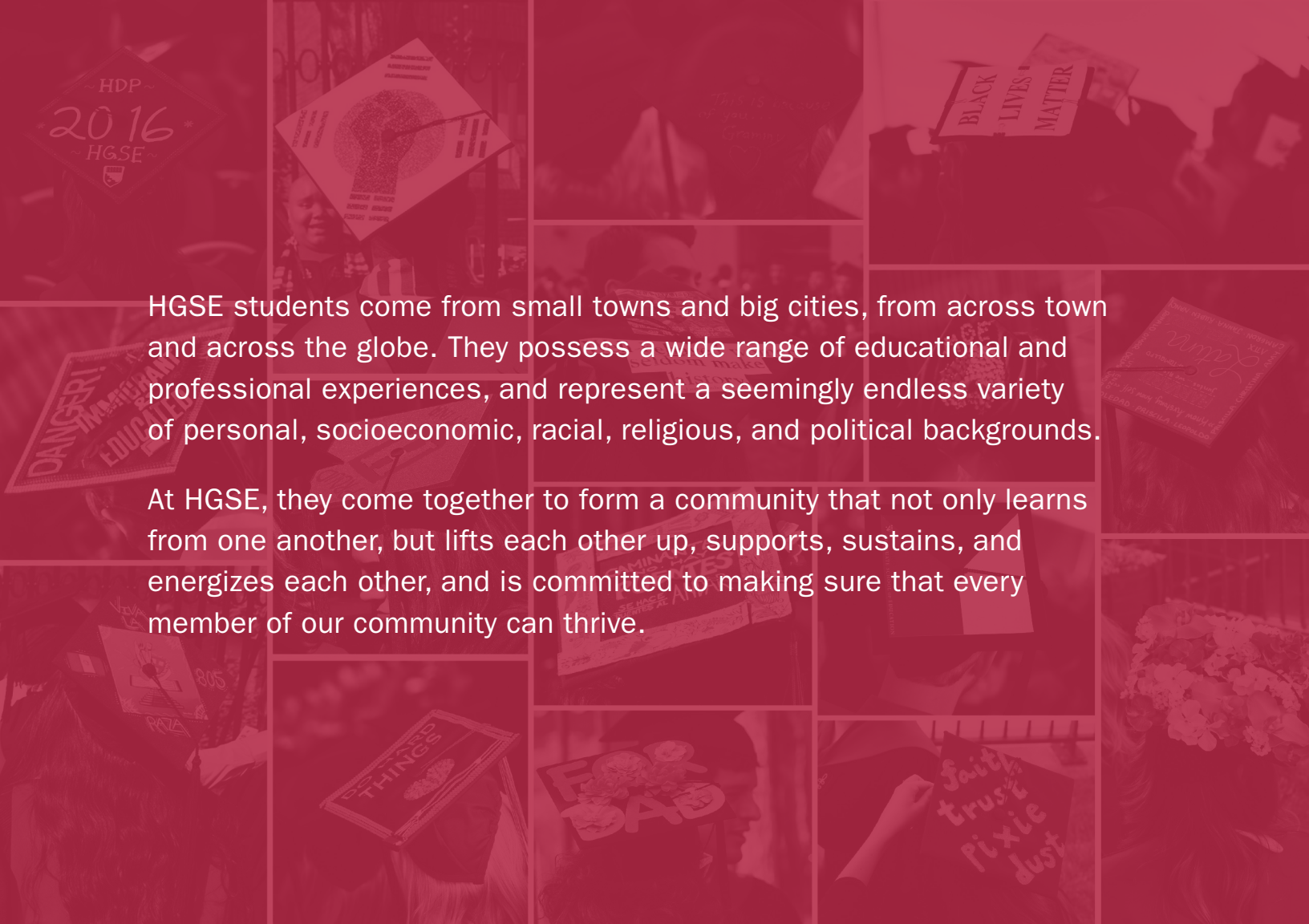
Dear Prospective Applicant

At the Harvard Graduate School of Education, we strive to be a community defined both by inclusion and intellectual vibrancy. We aspire to create learning environments in which all people—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, socioeconomic class, political views, religious beliefs, immigration status, or any element of one's background or identity—feel respected, included, and heard. At the same time, we aspire with equal determination to be a place where debates are not only possible but encouraged, where members of our community can learn to question ideas, theories, the conventional wisdom, and the dominant ideologies—either dominant in the country or dominant right here at HGSE. To me, this is what it means to be an inclusive, academic community, where discussions are respectful but also robust, where truths are both spoken and questioned, and where we work to remain united, despite our different experiences and views, in our shared faith in the power of education to change the world.



Building and maintaining such a community is a work in progress. There are, of course, times when we stumble or stagnate. But each year, with the influx of new students, ideas, and passions, our commitment to the values of respect and rigor is itself renewed. Just as it is my hope that you will have the opportunity to learn and grow during your time here, I know that we will also learn from you and grow stronger as a community because of your presence. Just as you will be changed by this place, I know that you will also change this place for the better. I look forward to you joining us in this work and seeing you make HGSE your home.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'JSN', located in the bottom right corner of the page.



HGSE students come from small towns and big cities, from across town and across the globe. They possess a wide range of educational and professional experiences, and represent a seemingly endless variety of personal, socioeconomic, racial, religious, and political backgrounds.

At HGSE, they come together to form a community that not only learns from one another, but lifts each other up, supports, sustains, and energizes each other, and is committed to making sure that every member of our community can thrive.

STEPHANY CUEVAS | Ed.D. CANDIDATE

Culture, Communities, and Education

Xicana, Scholar, Activist



HGSE enables people to find and build community, which was very important for me as a student of color. I needed people who looked and talked like me, who were from similar backgrounds, in order to be successful and thrive. HGSE provided the support and encouragement for me to build that community. As a result, I could really be myself here. ”



HGSE offers an abundance of opportunities for students to connect with people of similar backgrounds and experiences, including student organizations, cultural events, and other social and academic activities.

DAVID HAY | Ed.L.D. CANDIDATE

Leader, Activist, Gay

“HGSE increases your ability to connect to people across the school, not just the people you’d normally interact with. In my time on campus, I was part of the student council, HIVE, and Queer Ed, and found support and the free exchange of ideas in everything I’ve been involved in.”

Whether you’re an activist or an entrepreneur, an educator or researcher, you will find the resources to propel your career forward and a community of supportive friends and colleagues that will sustain you through your academic experience and beyond.



Support

LOKELANI CUMMINGS-WATANABE | Ed.M.'16**Prevention Science and Practice**

Hawaiian, Aunty, Mentor



“ I was concerned that HGSE would be a cutthroat environment where I might not be able to keep up with the rigorous academics. But all of my fears diminished within my first two weeks on campus. The professors are very invested in making sure you get the best education HGSE can give, and my fellow colleagues have greatly contributed to my academic, professional, and personal growth.”

With the education and support our students receive, they inevitably grow—both personally and professionally—and develop the confidence to follow their passions and turn their visions into reality.

BRIAN MITCHELL | Ed.M.'16

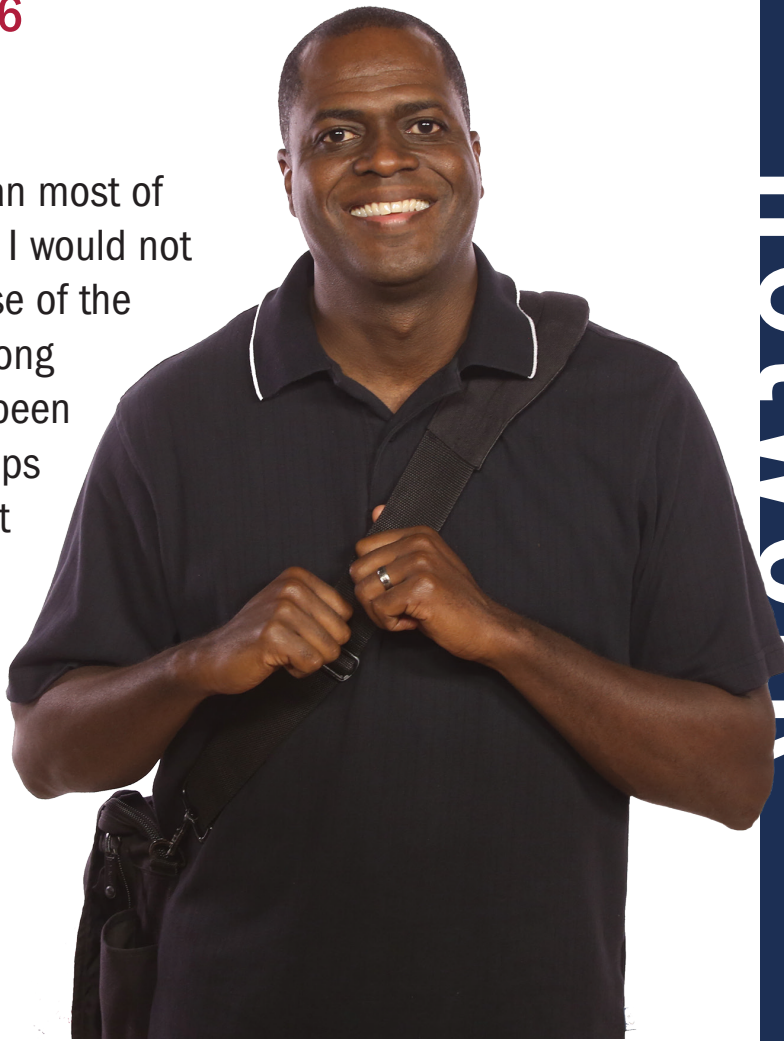
Higher Education

Dad, Lifelong-Learner, Doer



Because I am 20 years older than most of my colleagues at HGSE, I feared I would not fit in with my classmates because of the age difference. Happily, I was wrong about that. The HEP cohort has been wonderful, and I have relationships with some of my classmates that will last the rest of my life.”

HGSE students come from a wide range of academic, professional, and personal backgrounds, which helps to create a dynamic learning environment and a supportive community.



network



JESSICA BOYLE | Ed.M.'16

Education Policy and Management

Low-income, First Gen, Queer

“ I was one of the only students from a low socioeconomic background at my undergraduate college, and was afraid this would also be the case at HGSE. While students from poor backgrounds tend to always be a small group in elite spaces, I found that people at HGSE were eager to support me and help me identify and develop the things I felt were missing from my experience.”

Our students come from a wide range of backgrounds that fuel their passion for issues of social justice and education inequity

CORNELIUS LEE | Ed.M.'15

School Leadership

Educator, Leader, Empathizer



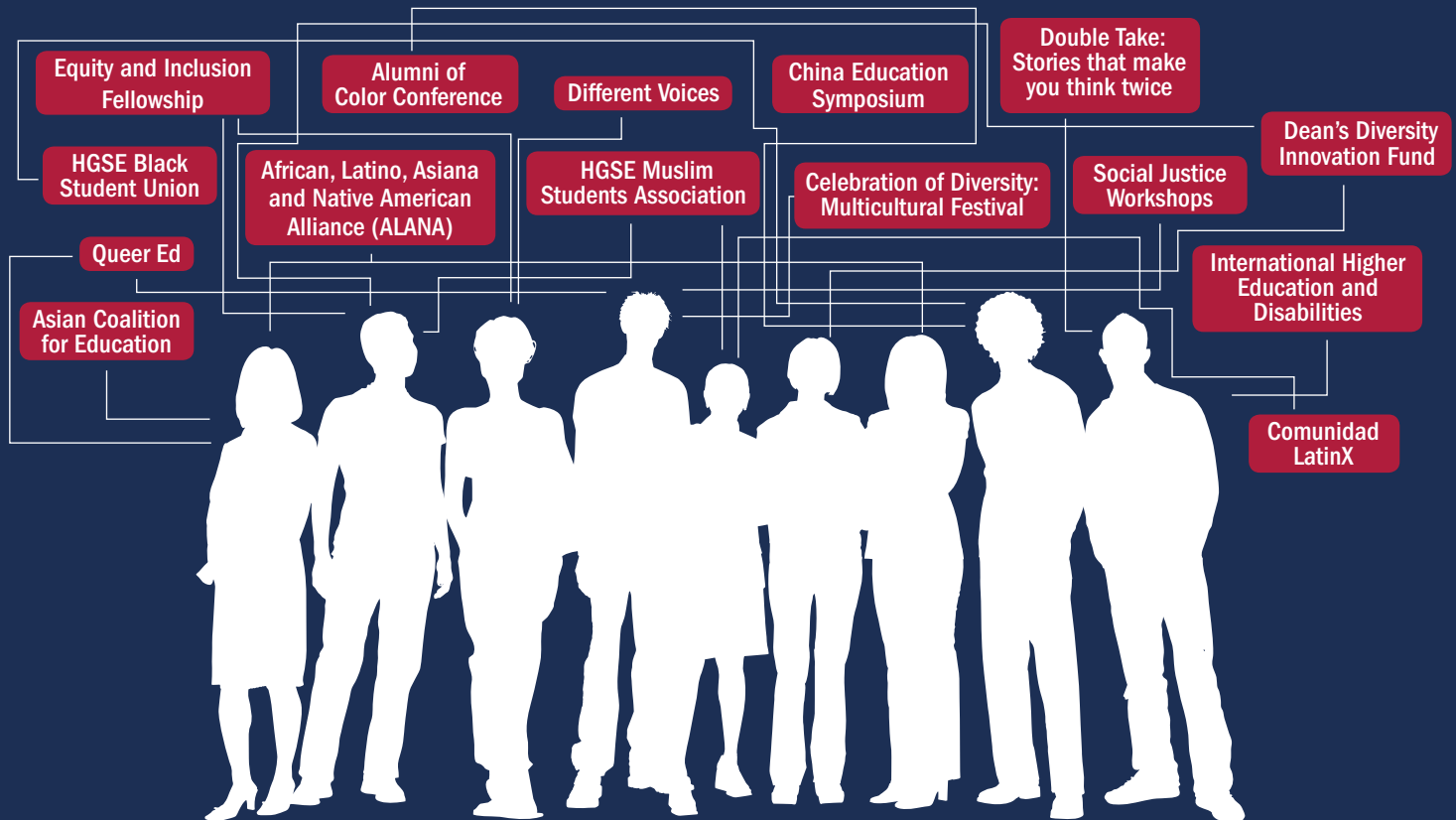
The HGSE community is very diverse and values so many different things. I discovered I can bring my whole self to this environment. I am a black, and gay, and every part of who I am is honored; my voice is heard and valued. And there have been so many opportunities for me to connect with people who have similar opinions and beliefs.”

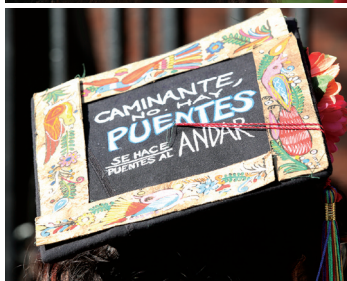
HGSE values every student voice. Classrooms and other “safe spaces” provide an open and accepting environment for students to speak their mind and engage in a free exchange of different ideas.



visibility

Student organizations and events at HGSE play a critical role in helping students to find their communities, fulfill their passions, and explore new interests. The sheer breadth and depth of opportunities is testament to the support and advocacy HGSE provides for these organizations, and our commitment to making sure that every aspect of your HGSE experience is fulfilling.





Learn^{to} Change the World

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Appendix



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