

WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

I was inspired by the peony gardens in Ann Arbor to use various flowers as representations for all the different cultures and tribes that people belong to across the globe. The roots of each flower come together to form a heart shape, symbolizing the spreading, and sharing of love and recognizing that we are all connected through feelings which are often referred to as coming from the heart. DEI to me simply means that everybody matters but saying the words is not enough, so action and behaviors should demonstrate that we truly embrace a diverse equitable and inclusive place. The awarding of the James S. Jackson Distinguished Career Award for Diversity to a senior U of M faculty member is an example of the work of DEI being recognized, and the inclusive nature of engaging students in the process of this recognition. The different flowers represent diversity, they are all placed on the same ground level representing equality, and they are deeply rooted in supporting the practice of inclusivity at U of M that the faculty awardee promotes.

