



One Year of TIDE
Written by Nicole Moeder

The month of June marks the one year anniversary of the creation of TIDE, The Inclusivity Diversity and Equity task force. Now is a time to reflect: where we've been, where we are, and where we need to go. A year ago we barely anything - simply a group of undergraduate students who wanted to make a difference. Now? We're more than we ever could have imagined.

It started small: a group of dedicated young people, with no prior connection, who wanted to make a change. Real change. It is truly awe inspiring that something so small grew into force so powerful that it continues to permeate throughout the world of college sailing. The incredible tenacity, determination, and drive of a group of individuals passionate about the same thing turned into a nation-wide, grassroots, sustainable initiative. All in one year! A couple of kids determined to make a difference created waves so big, with tides so powerful, that they completely redirected the surge of diversity, inclusion, and accessibility in college sailing.

Every single conference in North America has a TIDE rep. The ICSA TIDE Task Force has the unequivocal support of coaches and administrators, and their enthusiastic participation in our materials. Just think: over 50 college sailing coaches sat down for three hours and not only listened to college-aged students talk about inclusion, but enthusiastically participated and learned from them. Over 60 coaches responded to the culture and demographics survey with honesty and candor. TIDE has changed, and will continue to change legislation, to make it more inclusive. We are highlighting marginalized identities, both those that are already a part of our communities, and those whom we want to welcome in the future.

After a year of hard work, adaptation, listening, conversation, compassion, and determination, TIDE has come a long way; but that does not mean our work is done. Starting the conversation was just the first step. With the world opening again, it's time for us to reach out in new ways, physically, in our own communities. It's time for us to put action behind our claims. The work continues.

A year of TIDE means a lot. It's hard to put into words. For me? A year of TIDE gives me hope. A lot of it. I think I can say the same for the rest of our leaders. It's been a tough year, in more ways than one. Isolation, division, loss, pain, grief, gloom. It has been painful, for everyone. But I watch my peers and leaders continue to bring light and passion to our work, and part of me feels like we might be alright. Not today, not tomorrow, but if we have people leading us forward, I am confident in what we can achieve. I hope you are as excited as I am to continue TIDE's work, and pursue TIDE's mission in college sailing.

