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Religious Prayers and State-Supported Institutions

Many departments and organizations affiliated with North Carolina State University have asked for guidance in planning appropriate religious or spiritual expression during university-sponsored functions including banquets, athletic events, and other programs.

The following information is intended to provide assistance in complying with laws regarding religious expressions at state-sponsored events. Federal courts have ruled that state institutions cannot officially sanction or impose a particular religion or prayer. However, a moment of silence or reflection can provide participants with an opportunity to practice their personal religious reflection.

Moments of reflection might include a statement such as, “We will now take a moment to remember why we are here and what has brought us together, and to reflect and give thanks before beginning our meeting.”

Additional information is available by contacting the Office for Equal Opportunity at 515-3148.