

Engaging Students in Meaningful Diversity and Social Justice Experiences

Building Connections Conference May 2012

Questions to ask yourself

- ✓ Do you regularly offer activities and events to increase awareness of the experiences and concerns of non-majority populations?
- ✓ Do you attend experiences where you interact with people of a different background than you?
- ✓ Do you actively try to understand from which lens others are viewing a situation?
- ✓ Do I discourage bigotry?
- ✓ Do I strive to learn from differences in people, ideas and opinions?
- ✓ Do I respect the dignity of all?
- ✓ Do I demonstrate concern for others and their feelings?
- ✓ Do I live the Carolinian Creed?
- ✓ Do I want to continue to be a more effective educator?

Important thoughts when it comes to working with those who are different

- No one is an expert, strive to learn from every experience.
 - This means ask respectful questions (even if Google is the question receiver)
- Selected Aspects of Human Diversity:
 - ✓ Racial Identity (African, Arabic, Asian-Pacific Islander, White)
 - ✓ Ethnic Identity (Hispanic, Polynesian, German, Egyptian, Taiwanese, etc)
 - ✓ Gender (Male, Female, Transgender, Genderqueer, Gender-Nonconforming)
 - ✓ Sex (Male, Female, Intersex)
 - ✓ Sexuality (Heterosexual, Homosexual, Bisexual, Asexual, Pansexual, Queer)
 - ✓ Ability Status (Physical, Cognitive, Emotional)
 - ✓ Beliefs (Religious, Political)
 - ✓ Socio-Economic Status (Middle-Class, Wealthy, Low-Income)
 - ✓ Educational Attainment (First Generation, Legacy, etc)
 - ✓ Campus Involvement/Affiliation
 - ✓ Country of Origin & Language Spoken at Home
 - ✓ Age & Life Experiences
- This is an on-going process; learn from others incidentally and intentionally!
- There is more than one way to teach and learn; thus there are different ways to work with others.
 - ✓ (Diverse methodologies for diverse professionals working in a diverse world!)
- Let people know you care through actions, not words.
- Use open and inclusive language.
- Provide a safe and comfortable space for all in your office/space.
- Become a mentor/support person to a student.
- Do not permit or allow offensive comments or jokes.
- Treat inclusion and diversity in a positive manner; students take your lead!

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Web Resources

- ❖ <http://www.sa.sc.edu/omsa/>
- ❖ <http://www.sa.sc.edu/omsa/eventscelebrations/> - Calendar
- ❖ Twitter
 - @OMSAatUofSCc
 - @lgbtatUofSC
 - @EMPOWERatUofSC
- ❖ Facebook
 - <https://www.facebook.com/omsaatuofsc>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/lgbtatuofsc>
- ❖ #MSAChat Tuesdays at 4 PM (multiculturalism PD weekly chat)
 - <https://www.facebook.com/MSAchat>

Book Resources

- ❖ goo.gl/nnEC8

Diversity & Multiculturalism for Diverse Learning Styles!

- Concrete Experience (Feeling)
 - Diversity Retreat, Quench, Lecture Series, Diversity Dialogue, Outspoken Lecture Series
 - Diversity in Action Workshop Series (goo.gl/F7xfG)
 - Safe Zone Ally Project (goo.gl/ZSm5U)
 - LGBT 101 Presentation
- Reflective Observation (Watching)
 - Films
 - Reading
- Abstract Conceptualization (Thinking)
 - Blogging/Journaling
- Active Experimentation (Doing)
 - Conversations with others
 - Respectfully asking and learning from their experience