The Difficult Conversation: Race and Social Justice in America

Stand, Speak, & Support: Being an Ally for Others

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Overview

Focus of the Workshop:
• Alliance building around social issues and concerns that have an impact on our UD community.
• This workshop will discuss how we can all participate in creating a more inclusive campus environment.

Implemented solutions:
• Strategies and tools for being an ally.

Questions and Discussion

Please help yourself to lunch!
What does it mean to be an ally?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_dg86g-QIM0&noredirect=1
What does it mean to be an ally?

• “An ally is a person who wants to fight for the equality of a marginalized group that they are not a part of.”

• We need your help building this house, but you probably should listen so you know what to do!
Tip 1: Understand Your Privilege

- Privilege does not mean that you are rich, have an easy life, you’ve never had to struggle …

It means there are some things in life you’ll never have to experience just because of who you are.
Understanding Your Privilege

• Before you can fight for the rights of others, you have to figure out what rights you have that others don’t.
Tip 2: Listen and Do Your Homework

• Zip your lip! You can’t learn if you’re talking.

• Use the internet, social media, google to learn what people are feeling. If you are privileged in this area, you’ll never have to experience it – so you can’t know how they’re feeling. LISTEN to them so you can be a better ally.

• Get caught up on the issues that are important to the community that you want to support.
Part of equality means recognizing, honoring, and respecting the differences of others. Ignoring differences is called colorblind racism because you deny the experiences of people of color, seriously people look at yourselves. If black people feel that this girl has appropriated and exploited their culture, and you feel you have the right to tell them they can't feel that way you're fueling the differences that divide us. By saying "oh just get over it" you are effectively saying that you don't care that black people feel disrespected. You are exploiting your white privilege to silence the voices of people of color.

12-Year-Old White Girl Gets Harshly Criticized for Showing Off Her Blonde Box Braids on Social...

12-Year-Old White Girl Gets Harshly Criticized for Showing Off Her Blonde Box Braids
Tip 3: Speak Up, But Not Over

• Use your voice and privilege to educate others.

• Be careful not to speak over the community members that you are trying to support or to take credit for their efforts.

Is social media the right place for these discussions?
Tip 4: Apologize When You Make Mistakes

• Unlearning problematic things takes time and work. You’re bound to make mistakes … and that’s okay!

• Intent versus Impact

• When you get called out:
  – Listen
  – Apologize
  – Commit to Change
  – Move Forward
Tip 5: Ally is a Verb

• Saying you’re an ally is not enough, you have to do the work!

• “People of Color have no choice but to resist racism every single day of their lives. Women have no choice but to weather the storm of misogyny every day of their lives. Differently abled people have no choice but to deal with and respond to ableism every day of their lives.”

Thus, if you truly want to act in solidarity, you cannot simply retreat into your privilege when you just don’t want to engage.
What Stops a Bystander from Speaking Up?

• Social Influence
• Fear of Embarrassment
• Fear of Retaliation
• Diffusion of Responsibility
• Pluralistic Ignorance

Dr. Alan Berkowitz
Taking Action: Bystanders

- **Helpful Bystanders**
  - Directly intervene
  - Get help
  - Provide resources
  - Inform supervisors of issues on the team

- **Harmful Bystanders**
  - Instigate
  - Encourage
  - Join-In
  - Ignore

Office of Equity and Inclusion
Taking Action: Bystander

• Basic tips:
  – Speak for yourself
  – Challenge the behavior, not the person
  – Keep your cool
  – Keep your expectations reasonable
  – If applicable, change the subject/focus of the conversation
  – Follow Up
Taking Action: Bystander

• Before any intervention, you should first assess your risk:
  – Assess your timing— is this a good place/time to intervene? Are there others around who may change the way this is received?
  – Assess your ability to intervene – am I able to do this? Is stepping in the right thing to do right now?
  – Set your limits – how far am I willing to go? How many strategies am I willing to try?
  – Recognize that there may be unintended consequences – the person (the bully or the target) may get defensive, angry or even aggressive.
Ally Brainstorm

• How can you as an individual be an ally?

• How can you in your role at UD be an ally (student, faculty, staff, other)?

• How can you promote ally behaviors and inclusivity in your office, organization, or community?
Questions?

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