

Embracing Diversity: A Mindful Approach to Inclusion

Breakout Sessions

Session 1 ♦ 10:15 – 11:15 am

Face – To – Face Unlearning Racism

Presenters: Adekola Adedapo with students, Dailen Harris, Pamela Moore, Zulymar Luciano, Amanda Lynn, Kalimah Al-Mujaahid, Alverno College

Join us for a facilitated discussion with two groups (Euro-Americans and People of Color) sitting face to face, the candid discussion can be sensitive but is without judgment. Each participant draws a question from a bowl of questions that African Americans and/or people of color want to be asked and the same for questions that Euro-Americans want to be asked. Learn how problems are better solved when there is honest, respectful communication between communities.

How to Have a Dialogue across Cultures

(Open to students only, extended time: 10:30 am -12:30 pm)

Presenter: Lee Mun Wah, Stirfry Seminars & Consulting

So often we are afraid to begin a conversation on diversity issues because we have had a bad experience or feel others will say something wrong or hurtful. This dialogue seminar is particularly exciting and satisfying, because it helps everyone to practice talking to someone who is different from themselves in a compassionate and honest way. Students will learn that they are not alone in their fears and although we all lack a “model” of how to begin this type of conversation, the most important ingredient is our sincerity and our willingness to learn from and understand each other.

Express Yourself: Immersion, Engagement, Inclusion

Presenters: Lori Vance; Daisy Bouman; Holly Haebig, Express Yourself MKE

This experiential workshop will engage participants in a multi-arts exploration of the conference theme. Background of the work of Express Yourself Milwaukee will be shared, and participants will have an opportunity to reflect, connect, and share their own creative contributions toward inclusion in our diverse world.

Perspectives from an International Student in a New World

Presenters: Rachel Haos and panel of international students, Alverno College

A panel of Alverno international students (some may be students who are permanent residents or even citizens, but were not necessarily born here) will share how they are negotiating American culture, how they perceive themselves, and how they think Americans perceive them.

The Biology of Sexual Identity: It isn't Black and White

Presenter: Sherry Seston, Alverno College

The medical definition and biological basis of genetic, gonadal, and phenotypic (external) sex assignment will be reviewed, followed by an exploration of the diversity of possible gonadal and sexual anatomy. Given this background, the past, present, and future idea of "birth sex" assignment will be discussed.

Inclusive Practices in Schools: Findings of Two Action Research Projects

Presenters: Patricia Luebke; Robin Scholz; Meghan Rupert, Alverno College

School of Education Dean Patricia Luebke will present a brief context-setting overview of the history and issues in developing and implementing inclusive practices in schools. Two students in the master's degree program at Alverno will present and discuss the results of their action research projects centering on different aspects of developing and implementing inclusive practices in their schools. One focuses on the development of faculty and staff members; the other focuses on classroom practice and co-teaching between general and special educators.

How to Successfully Live and Work in a Religiously Diverse Society and World

Presenters: Trish Lewis and students in RL375, Alverno College

Participants will learn an approach/methodology for engaging and working with people of different faiths and beliefs. This method can not only help us be more religiously literate, but also help us better understand our own spiritual stories. Once we more fully understand our own and others' values, we can more successfully work together to create a more pluralistic world. Participants will understand the importance of knowing and sharing their own spiritual journeys, how to engage with religions with which they are unfamiliar, and how approaching others through shared values allows us to better live and work together.

Cultivating Inclusive Leadership

Presenters: Doherty Scholars, Members of Vanguard Society, Alverno College

In a session facilitated by students in the Doherty Scholars Learning Community, members of the Vanguard Alumnae Society – representing a variety of backgrounds – will discuss their perspectives on cultivating diverse leadership across business, healthcare, and non-profit organizations.

Why are They Burning their Own Neighborhoods? Understanding the culture of poverty

Presenter: Beverly Jenkins, Synthesis Consulting

As part of an examination of diversity and inclusion, this workshop will examine the perceptions and realities of living in a culture of poverty. The presentation will use experiential exercises as well as lecture format to engage participants in a thoughtful discussion on the role socio-economics and race play in the culture of poverty.

Immigration & Latino/a Civic Engagement: Reflections on the 2016 Urban Plunge

Presenters: Michelle Barthua; Christelle Castillo; Pamela Moore; Rosa Murillo; Krystal Rodman, Alverno College

In this interactive workshop, participants will deepen their understanding of citizenship, social inclusion and human rights by analyzing and applying current events to the 7 themes of Social Teaching for a Better World. After watching a video clip that presents conflicting viewpoints about the rights of undocumented immigrants in the United States, they will discuss these viewpoints and use them as a springboard to clarify their own opinion on this issue. Finally, the students who participated in the recent Urban Plunge on immigration and Latino/a civic engagement will share their learning and insight with the audience.

A Mindful Approach to Transportation Diversity

Presenter: Joyce Tang Boyland, Alverno College

There are many reasons that there is diversity in the way people get around: economics, environment, safety, convenience, health, spirituality, community. Regardless of the reasons, our imaginations often fail us when we try to understand how others' transportation lives shape their life experience, and what might happen when we open our eyes and respond. Can we thoughtfully converse about the complex impacts of recognizing transportation diversity? Inclusion of diversity is never easy, but we can begin by having a conversation that moves beyond stereotypical norms.

Kaleidoscope: Exploring Multifaceted Ideas about Diversity

(extended time: 10:15-11:30 am)

Presenter: Blanche Brown

Participants will alternate between journaling and monotype printmaking techniques to explore common myths and views surrounding the meaning and understanding of diversity and how this informs our thoughts and actions today.

Session 2 ♦ 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Drum Circle - Connecting rhythms and cultures

Presenters: Cecilio Negrón, Jr., Proyecto Bembe

Led by Master Drummer, Cecilio Negrón, the drum circle is an opportunity to make an organic connection with drums and rhythms of many different cultures. We learn the rhythms and then combine them in a “drum jam” and sometimes, songs too! Instruments are provided but you are encouraged to bring your instrument from your ethnic background as well.

Forgiveness is Good for your Mind

Presenter: Pamela Lucas, Alverno College

This workshop focuses on the benefits of forgiveness. This includes defining and creating an image of forgiveness and identifying why it is good for the mind.

Diversity through the Lens of Culture Humility

Presenters: Patti Varga; Diane Duffy, Alverno College

We'll explore the notion of diversity through the lens of cultural humility from personal and theoretical perspectives. What is culture? How do we “know” culture? How does our notion of culture impact our thoughts about diversity? Through images and language, participants will have the opportunity consider the impact of culture in diverse groups.

What Can Inclusion Look Like in a Project-based Learning Environment

Presenters: Tracy Thompson, Alverno College; Escuela Verde Staff and Student

We will explore what inclusion can look like in a project-based learning environment from multiple perspectives including those of special education student, peer, parent and instructors. The interactive presentation will involve dialogue between all the aforementioned and others. One emphasis will be to share perceived and real benefits and challenges for these and other stakeholders, considering the significance of presence, compassion and community in creating a mutually enriching learning environment.

Power and Diversity

Presenter: Russell Brooker, Alverno College

“Diversity” is typically conceptualized as appreciating people of different ethnicities, cultures, or religions. Some social scientists offer a second way to look at diversity. It holds that people tend to appreciate those who are different from them when they are compelled to do so. With this conceptualization, the goal of those who want a more diverse society is to work to disperse power and authority more widely in the population. This workshop will explore the relationship between power and diversity.

Melting Not! The Modern Nation State as a Threat to Diversity

Presenter: John Savagian, Alverno College

This workshop will explore the formation and expansion of the nation state, the assimilationist policies of colonial powers, and their continued impact on contemporary efforts to foster inclusiveness, tolerance for differences, and the celebration of diversity. Since their formation, the Nation-States' viewed diversity as a disintegrating force and countered it with ethnic cleansing, assimilationist education models, nationalism, patriotism and wars for unification and genocide. Foundational concepts such as eugenics, racial superiority, and Social Darwinism will be introduced as ideological frameworks for various State responses to ethnic and racial and gender diversity. Many of these same ideas are still in existence, now directed towards indigenous survivors, now clothed in modern terms such as "ending poverty" and "economic development."

Practical Diversity: Taking Inclusion from Theory to Practice

Presenter: Vicki Schreiber, Alverno College

The title is based on the TED Talk by Dawn Bennett-Alexander. This session will provide participants the opportunity to think differently about diversity and inclusion while developing a personal mission statement that outlines how participants will use the knowledge gained.

Implicit Bias: Its Meaning and Impact

Presenter: Martha Barry, YMCA

What is implicit bias? What does it mean if I am biased? Isn't everyone? Learn the ways our implicit bias impacts our awareness of how we think and operate every day. If we know our biases, particularly our racial biases, we can limit our prejudices, avoidance patterns and potentially discriminatory behaviors. The greater our awareness of implicit bias the more likely we are to be successful navigating our differences to reach more successful outcomes.

This workshop is designed to bring real-world examples for review. Using a case study and discussion will allow participants to analyze their personal understanding of implicit bias. With greater knowledge, participants will understand how to think better about their life and work.

Milwaukee's Future as a Global City

Presenter: Marcus White, Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Milwaukee is the largest, most diverse city in Wisconsin and a regional economic driver. In an increasingly globalizing and changing world, how does our diversity enable our community to leverage its position and advance? Participants will explore how Milwaukee's past led us to our present place and context, and how our city is positioned to move forward in it's global neighborhood. This presentation draws largely on a recent report about our region's growing Latino community.

What does Your Immigration Status Really Mean to you? Life as a DACAmented Student

Presenters: Rachel Haos; Alma Lopez, Alverno College

Learn the story of an undocumented student who is a Roosevelt Scholar. Participants will get a glimpse of the struggle that undocumented students face when trying to get an education. They will also take part in an activity that helps them understand and reflect on how immigration status can affect every aspect of life. Lastly, participants will learn how they can engage and support the community of undocumented students.

Arts- Cultural Appreciation or Cultural Appropriation? Navigating Arts Experiences in a Global Society

Presenters: Linda Johnson-Dyneke and other Arts Division faculty, Alverno College

Join the Arts Division faculty as they compare and contrast the concepts of appreciation and appropriation in visual art, dance, theater, and music. Participants will engage in an interactive discussion about how we navigate and experience the arts in different contexts.

Striking the Match: A Collaborative Approach to Youth Development

Presenter: Sharlen Moore & Thomas Leonard

With the recent unrest in the Sherman Park Community neighborhood, do we really know why the events took place? How do we view youth of color? Participants will be taken through a series of activities and discussion that will consist of topics such as: race, class, structural racism and inequality as we uncover the many challenges facing Milwaukee.