

March 28, 2023

DEIJ Community Group

Started at 6:09pm via Teams

Attendance: Rachael Blansett, Rebecca Noe, Dr. Jim Morse, Paige Burt, Zoe Selig, Rheanna Cote, Val Wolfsen, Maya Ajit, Cheryl Savage, Yusi Turrell, Caroline Sterndale, Susan Mathison, Kyra Dulmage, Kathy Collins

Identified Actions:

1. Creating more opportunities to engage in difficult dialogue and conversations (training, practicing & building safe spaces)
2. Hosting more community events
3. Share & collaborate with DEIJ Community groups
4. Recruit more interest in the DEIJ group and influencing more people to participate in opportunities dedicated to this work
5. Design a culture/climate survey to be shared in Fall 2023
6. Building a tool to measure the DEIJ Community Group's goals and progress

Subgroup Updates

- Subgroup #1:
 - Adding DEIJ to the MS Kindness week and increase Teacher trainings
 - Thinking about the JEDI group presenting to teachers about their FAQs; did one already with the MS and got good feedback;
 - Thinking about doing a role models event where adults will present different perspectives about the joys in their lives so that students hear perspectives from marginalized backgrounds other than struggles
- Subgroup #2:
 - Had a couple ideas and entered down a path to do one, but then put a halt on it;
 - One of two ideas 1.) partnering with the sustainability community dinner or 2.) putting together a parent night to talk about the LGBTQ+ community
- Subgroup #3:
 - Natural collaborator potentially with group 2
 - A couple of events coming up with OREJ, Seacoast Outright, and Durham Community Church; OREJ is creating an "Immigration Timeline" where they have partnered with local community artists to complete
 - Thinking of events towards the fall; as there are many early childhood educators among us, thinking about doing an event on how to talk to kids about race at a really young age;
 - Identified some partners, potentially the Freedom Café, contacts with the UNH Diversity Office, the Racial Unity Team, etc.
 - Alphabet Prom taking place on April 15th and need chaperones, taking food donations
- Subgroup #4:
 - Yusi focusing on diversifying perspectives in the community, Val focused on the teachers and Zoe on the students; planning on meeting in the next two weeks;

- Connecting with students who may be interested in environmental justice and how to become advocates and highlight who is most impacted by poor environmental management
- Similar for the community – can we get more diverse perspectives shared, what gives us sustenance in the work, should we do external forums?
- For teachers, theorizing how to get over the HB2 hurdles and mapping out the best leverage points; looking at how to build capacity and social capital (especially from a student point-of-view)
- Asking questions about how do we make this work sustainable? How do we make everyone feel welcomed into DEIJ and framing as a learning environment
- Subgroup #5:
 - Working on a survey and collecting resources; to do a home-grown survey would be exhaustive and would not be scientific; doing the research now and going to get back together

6:38: Discussed the Transgender Procedure Update and the potential impact of SB272

Subgroup work in breakout rooms from 6:47pm- 6:57pm

Rachael gives closing reminders about next meeting and NH Listens facilitation training in May

Meeting closes at 7pm