

February 20, 2024

DEIJ Community Group

Started at 6:09pm

ATTENDANCE: Rachael Blansett, Trisha Hall, Kristen Forselius, Denise Day, Kate Zimar, Susan Mathison, Lucy Gialousis, Val Wolfson, Giana Gelsey

CHECK-IN: What is bringing you joy?

- Trisha: Bunnies on the Insta feed!
- Kristen: Her and husband have been taking dogs to the beach
- Giana: Youngest daughter seems to be happier and made a better friend on daughter's swim team
- Kate: Saw a map of where the eclipse is going to happen which is going to be right over Rochester, NY where she grew up; Auschwitz Traveling Exhibit is coming to Boston March 15th; the first time in New England
- Lucy: A lot more free afternoons with basketball over and getting braces off in 10 days!
- Val: Doing a reflective journal and has made a lot of progress with it
- Susan: Students!!! Got a pin from a student
- Denise: Saw a bald eagle kind of up-close!

SPRING EVENT OVERVIEW

Relayed overview of event format

- Brainstorm potential panelists
 - Disability
 - Danielle Heaton (21 Senses?)
 - Immigration
 - Ernie Nsai
 - Gender/Sexuality
 - Seacoast Outright, Heidi?
 - PoC
 - Michael Ward?
 - Racial Unity Team?
 - Class???
 - Susan's niece works closely with the Beaugard Center
- Maybe just 3 inspiring stories???

Are we sure we don't want kids to be a part of the panel?

- Potentially ask UNH students; the Beaugard Center, BSU, etc.
- Prompts:
 - What does it mean for you to belong? Can you talk about a time your sense of belonging was challenged? Can you share a time you felt like you belonged?

- Create a visual: Ask kids to write and respond to prompt on different colored sticky notes; hang up on different large posters so everyone can look and read
 - Each grade level could be different colors of the rainbow
 - Could gather responses in advisory and influence the art teachers to create a visual
 - Can we get HS involved? Potentially have the broad question of belonging; have students contribute anonymously on a notecard and have the instructor read out loud

What's the hook?

- Kristen just had 80 people attend the Community Read and they had a bluegrass band, homemade soup, and the food pantry speaks
- Art visuals that have

The theme for the schools next year should be BELONGING

- Gather whole grade in the concert hall and share stories (middle-school level?)
- People have a responsibility to allow for everyone to belong

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- What was your first experience with race?
- Talk about a time where you felt like you truly belonged?
- What do you view your role or responsibility in creating a sense of belonging for others in the community?
- What do you need from your community?
- One thing you're going to take away from this experience? What's one thing you brought and two things you're taking away

TO DO:

- Create welcoming/introduction message
- Connect with Elementary & MS Art teachers; have students respond to question prompts in Advisory discussion on different sticky notes
- Design HS advisory activity to get responses on belonging
- Identify top 3 inspiring speakers and develop key prompts for them to shape their stories
 - Coach them
 - Inquire about honorariums
- Order refreshments
- Create flyer and title; Instagram graphic?
 - Share with community partners
- Identify orgs to help partner and sponsor

Meeting closes at 7:37pm