

Leveraging Diversity for Student Learning

Diversity and inclusion curriculum is on the rise as this previously liberal studies topic finds its way into STEM classrooms (New York Times, 2017). Faculty and staff members across the U.S. have to think of ways to create an inclusive learning environment through their curriculum, research, and teaching methods, while simultaneously balancing student learning to be both theoretical and applied. Using a language-based case study, a multi-disciplinary panel will encourage attendees to incorporate diversity and inclusion in various aspects of their work.

Moderators



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Duke University Case Study

Hi All,

I had two separate faculty members come to my office today and ask if I had pictures of the MB students. I shared with them the head shots of the first- and second-year cohorts taken during orientation. Both faculty members picked out a small group of first-year students who they observed speaking Chinese (in their words, VERY LOUDLY) in the student lounge/study areas. I asked why they were curious about the students' names. Both faculty members replied that they wanted to write down the names so they could remember them if the students ever interviewed for an internship or asked to work with them for a master's project. **They were disappointed that these students were not taking the opportunity to improve their English and were being so impolite as to have a conversation that not everyone on the floor could understand.**

To international students, PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE keep these unintended consequences in mind when you choose to speak in Chinese in the building. I have no idea how hard it has been and still is for you to come to the US and have to learn in a non-native language. As such, I have the utmost respect for what you are doing. That being said, I encourage you to commit to using English 100% of the time when you are in Hock or any other professional setting.

Copying the second-year students as a reminder given they are currently applying for jobs.

Happy to discuss more. Just stop by my office.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you heard of this case? Was the censorship of Chinese students justified?
2. If you were a witness to this situation, how would you react? Have you been in a similar situation? How did you react?
3. Thinking about all parties involved, how could this entire event be handled differently?

Takeaway Strategies

How can you be intentional about incorporating diversity and inclusion in your everyday life?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.