

Diversity Conference

The Grand Rapids Community College Diversity Learning Center is proud to host its Diversity Conference. The conference features keynote speakers and workshops dealing with diversity issues.

The conference began in 1995 and continues to address social justice and cultural concerns. The conference helps develop and enhance understanding and awareness of the issues confronting youth of today.

Latino Youth Conference

8th graders

The purpose of the Latino Youth Conference is to unite the youth and community leaders of West Michigan in order to encourage and motivate students to aspire toward higher education and to help reverse the dropout rate. Students will participate in a variety of interactive workshops.

Creating Inclusive Educational Environments

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Sharing Power

Achieving Social Justice

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The Diversity Learning Center embraces and promotes diversity of race, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender, political persuasion, age, national origin, weight, height, marital status, disability or status as a Vietnam Era veteran in any of its education programs and activities, including admissions and employment.

Grand Rapids Community College is an equal opportunity institution.

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The Woodrick Diversity Learning Center

The Woodrick Diversity Learning Center (WDLC) is dedicated to implementing educational and cultural programs for students, staff, and community that improve campus climate, enhance employee relationships and strengthen community relations. The WDLC will provide individuals with a safe place for collecting the knowledge and skills needed to meet the challenges and enrichment of school, work and living in a diverse and multicultural world. The WDLC serves as a resource to the College and its community by helping individuals overcome fears and ignorance, encouraging respect for differences and providing cultural competence training.

Youth Empowerment Programs

K-12th grade students

Each program may be executed on its own or along with other program(s). Format and time of workshops custom-designed to meet school schedules.

Word Up! Word Out!

Middle school and high school participants have the opportunity to learn to appreciate diversity, challenge bias and discrimination, develop cultural competencies and improve interpersonal communication skills.

- Build awareness and respect for a diverse society
- Determine characteristics of youth culture
- Explore the impact of media on our world view
- Shatter stereotypes, bias and discrimination from a historical perspective
- Examine culture clashes at school
- Become a change agent at their school

Youth Diversity Partnership

An expansion of the Word Up! Word Out! curriculum that empowers high school and middle school students to design and deliver diversity awareness presentations to younger students. Participants have the opportunity to earn a certificate of completion and become a certified Diversity Learning Center Youth Facilitator.

- Understand global leadership
- Facilitate cross-culturally and develop presentation skills
- Participate in extensive service learning project

School Diversity Summit

5th through 12th grade students

Format and time of workshops custom-designed to meet school schedules.

You, Me and . . . ?

Examining "what we know," "where we learned what we know," and "how we live what we know," will uncover more commonalities than differences between participants in this energizing workshop. Learn skills and strategies to increase awareness, sensitivity and respect for a diverse society. You will learn to become "more curious and less certain" in order to broaden your world view.

You're Hired!

Will you be a culturally competent member of the 21st Century workforce? Career success may well be connected to how well an individual communicates with people from different cultures and backgrounds. This engaging and dynamic workshop examines the benefits and challenges of major changes in the workforce, including more women in a variety of jobs, increased technology, more racial and ethnic representation and accommodating employees with disabilities.

Societal Fear Factor

Prejudice, Bias, Discrimination, Racism – where does it all begin and how are they connected? Participants in this thought-provoking and informative workshop will examine the origins of the concept of race and institutional oppression. Understanding the differences between invisible, subtle and overt racism paves the way to developing strategies to become allies in the work of dismantling bias and discrimination.

School Daze

What "mental models" come to mind when you are asked "To be a teenager means. . . ." "To be rich means. . . ." "To be handicapped means. . . ."? This powerful presentation explores the impact of stereotypes on daily behaviors and decisions. Examine characteristics of pop culture and stereotypes that create "culture clashes" at your school as well as in society. Participants have the opportunity to determine strategies to become "agents of change" in their communities and schools.

Media Blitz

Did you know that the average American spends more than 16 years of his or her life watching television? And if you include other screened media, such as computers and other devices, that number goes up to more than 20 years. How do media shape who we are and how we view others? In this workshop, participants have an opportunity to explore the impacts of media technology on their mental models. We will also examine how this current generation's culture has been shaped by media.

Educators

Inclusive Educational Environments

Educators examine the cultural climate of their schools and explore tools that assist them in leveraging diversity to build successful inclusive environments.

- Understand cultural characteristics of their district, school and communities
- Cultivate students' talents for success in a global society
- Communicate effectively and build relationships with diverse learners and families
- Examine the impact of age, gender, abilities and socio-economic status on learning styles
- Enhance curriculum to foster inclusion of history and contributions of all cultures

Cultural Competency Assessment

The Woodrick Diversity Learning Center measures the cultural competency of school programs, policies, procedures and practices, and provides written and verbal recommendations for successful diversity initiatives to each school.

- Custom design and implement a full scale cultural competency assessment in a survey form
- Conduct site visits and informal interviews with staff and faculty