

In response to CCSSE survey results showing that students perceive that they are not exposed to, nor discuss topics of diversity at the college, a Diversity Task Force was formed at Edison Community College. The purposes of this team are to 1) Challenge the perception of students, faculty and staff by broadening their definitions of diversity, and 2) Enrich the educational experience by infusing diversity topics and themes throughout all experiences at Edison; intentionally integrating them into all academic and non-academic experiences.

Some of the activities that we have found to be instrumental have included:

1. Chosen themes for diversity are announced and integrated into academic and nonacademic activities each semester. The collection of diversity topics includes race, gender, economic/social class, age, sexual orientation, language, religion, disabilities, and weight. Usually two themes are chosen for each semester.
2. A selected book that supports the chosen diversity theme is provided for every full-time and part-time permanent employee and a college-wide "read" occurs.
  - a. A Bridge to Understanding Poverty, by Ruby Payne
  - b. Emotional Intelligence, by Daniel Goleman
3. Several small group book club discussions are scheduled for staff to attend throughout the term.
4. Professional Development opportunities are offered centered around the theme. A consultant conducted a workshop about how presentation on Emotional Intelligence could be applied in the classroom.
5. A dozen posters are hung throughout campus, visually displaying the various themes of diversity along with the words, "Experience Edison, Experience Diversity." These posters are rotated each semester to provide greater variety and exposure to the students and staff.

In 2009-2010, the Diversity Task Force will be responsible for encouraging the formation of a Community Diversity Exchange in our three county target market. The Diversity Exchange is both a concept as well as a venue for community agencies, businesses, and individuals to share ideas, resources and opportunities; to build a thriving community where people from every background can be welcomed economically, socially and personally. Through this team, community-wide events, activities and discussions will be made available with the college service area.

Edison's Kick-off for the Diversity Exchange will take place on October 19<sup>th</sup>, when Edison hosts "Digital Terrorism and Hate: The Dark Side of the Internet," presented by Rick Eaton, Senior Researcher and internationally-recognized expert with the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

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