



ENRICHMENT THROUGH DIVERSITY

Imagine if everyone in the world were a clone of yourself. What a boooorrring world this would be in the absence of diversity.

The dictionary defines diversity as the condition of being different or having differences. It is indisputable that we live in a world full of diversity.

Have you stopped to think about what makes you different from the student walking next to you in the University Center? "Or what is so distinct about the student in front of you in the Bookstore?" Well, if not, take a few minutes to think about these questions. Is it the fact that you are a Caucasian female while he is an Asian-American male? Wait a minute. What about other differences that may not be so apparent? If you could guess, most likely, the chances of your guessing the correct answer are slim.

In the course of our everyday lives, we come in contact with individuals who are of a different race and culture, different age group, and those who hold dissimilar beliefs, values, as well as religions. Could you image what a mundane world would be if this were not the case? Yet, many individuals choose to socialize with people similar to themselves. Why is this? Why is it that we do not take the opportunity to experience and appreciate diversity in our society?

There are many reasons people choose to socialize with others like themselves. Stereotypes about other races or cultures may hinder us from mingling with individuals different from ourselves. Another reason may be fear of the unknown. Finally, many individuals may have difficulty interacting with others who do not share their native language.

Let's face it: being able to interact with someone who can relate to your experiences can be more pleasant and comfortable. However, we have not chosen to study where everyone has the same background, but to study in a global university with a very heterogeneous population. Take time out today to expand your horizons by appreciating diversity. Here are just a few suggestions:

If you are a young adult, spend time talking and listening to an older adult

Converse with someone in your class who is of a different culture

Attend campus events which emphasize diversity

Spend time in the library reading material about different religions

Share your culture, beliefs, and value system with someone else

As stated earlier, these are just a few suggestions. The fact is, student life is a great opportunity for one to experience as well as appreciate diversity. The question is who will take advantage of this great opportunity.

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