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Education Department

Cultural Diversity Workshop

I attended the Cultural Diversity workshop this past Sunday. It was extremely beneficial for me to attend this workshop. I learned new things such as Identity groups, and more about stereotyping. The teachers of the group would tell us what these things are and then we would break into groups and experience these stereotypes first hand. We also told stories that were very moving that have really happened to people and how it happened and why. This was a very interesting workshop, and I learned a lot.

I learned a lot from my experience at the cultural diversity workshop weekend. I have a new insight on people and stereotypes. I now see how they affect people in their everyday life. I also now know how to tell a person to stop using stereotypes. For example, when one is talking to their friends, and they are talking about a car they recently purchased. The person could say, "We jewed the dealer out of a lot of money until the price we got was what we wanted!" The person who is listening to the story can do multiple things. They can listen and agree with everything, then ask well isn't your friend Jewish? One can then ask, where did you get that expression from? Tell them I just wouldn't want you to say that in front of their friend. Finally, tell them that it is exciting in the new car, and say I would love to go for a ride soon. This is to let them know that you do not think badly of them, and you still want to be their friend. This is a way to let people know that stereotypes are harmful.

Identity groups are something very interesting that I learned. Cultural identity is the groups that we are in as people. For example I am in the brother group because I have a little sister. This also puts me in the older sibling group. We went through everyone's groups and shared them with the entire group. It was very interesting to see what all groups people are in. It was interesting to see all the groups I am in. I learned a lot about myself and what groups I am a part of. I had no idea I was part of the education group or the god father group. I just thought these were activities I took part in or a role I was assigned. This is a way that thinking has changed. People are now thinking about what groups they are a part of and not how to discriminate groups.

One activity I really enjoyed was when we talked about how we can help stop stereotyping. People told life changing stories about how they have seen stereotyping in real life. One story stuck with me, the story was about a student's job was working at a roller skate arena music specialist. He noticed a white young male starting trouble with a young black male. He went over to the two young males and separated them. It turns out the white male was from the south and did not respect black people. He was told early in his life stereotypes about black people. He was up north visiting relatives and was doing what he thought was right. He separated the two young men, and then noticed the white male had pulled a knife out, and was threatening the black male. He said it was very scary having a knife pointed at him, but he did what he had to do and the young white male was controlled and the situation was over. This story was extremely moving and made me realize that no matter what race will always be a stereotype, and that stereotypes will never go away.

The final event that we did as a group was talk about how we can educate the youth. I proposed the idea of teaching my young elementary school students about stereotypes. I will

punish my students if I hear them telling stereotypes, or making fun of people with stereotypes. I want my students to understand how harmful they are. If we are able to educate the youth, someday we might be able to get completely rid of stereotypes.

This event was very moving and I enjoyed my time learning about cultural diversity. I learned new things about stereotypes and learned a new thing in cultural identity. These are great things to learn about and will help teachers in the future.