

Justin Minnich

Celebrating Diversity

At the celebrating diversity workshop I learned a lot. I learned that all individuals suffer from some sort of discrimination. I learned several ways that I could help individuals who discriminate others. The workshop helped me realize that I am very fortunate. Some people in certain situations are always being discriminated because they are different. This workshop really opened up my eyes to all the different groups of people, and how “different” people are treated poorly.

When I walked into the room, I looked around and saw all white people, except for one African-American. I thought to myself “this is not a very diverse workshop”. Shortly after the workshop got started I realized that everyone in the room was different. Diversity does not only mean race. It can mean several different things. It can mean people with different issues or views. Before the workshop, I always thought of diversity as a race thing. The workshop helped me recognize that diversity is all around us.

We did several different activities. These activities gave me a chance to get to meet some new people. The activities gave me a chance to learn more about people that I thought I knew, as well. I got to know each individual on a personal level. Just about every person in the room opened up and shared a personal story they had. Before the workshop started we were all asked to keep everything said that day confidential. We were also asked to be very accepting of what people have to say and not ridicule them.

The workshop opened up my eyes to the different discrimination that people go through each day. I never really thought some things that are said or done affect people the way they do. Some of the littlest things can really offend some people. I think that as a teacher I will be more careful of what I say and do to not offend certain groups. I was able to relate in some ways to the stories that some of the others shared. This made me realize that people are not much different from one another. We all go through hardships. I feel like I learned how to deal with my own hardships and also help others deal with theirs'.

One thing that I liked about the workshop was the fact that we were celebrating diversity. It really showed me that diversity is a good thing. If everyone was the same life would be boring. Every person has their own stories and their own past. All of which are different. Celebrating and accepting diversity is something that I want my students to understand when I become a teacher. The workshop really helped me understand that diversity is a great thing.

I feel like I learned several things that will help me become a teacher. The things I learned will also help me to become a better person. After the workshop I truly feel that I am a more accepting and understanding person. The workshop changed me as a person. I hope that I can take what I learned and change other people as well. One way that I will help my students understand the importance of diversity is to split them into different groups often. This will give them a chance to get to know everyone in the class. I have become much more open-minded and understanding of all different types of individuals. This workshop was a great experience and I believe that it will help me to become a better teacher.

