

Why SHOULD you go to college?

There is no one answer that applies to all, but one that comes close is ***“to gain an understanding of a world greater than you.”***

College is not a prerequisite to getting a good job or making friends or getting away from your family. These are some of the presumptions that often keep students from embracing the best qualities of the college experience.

THE PROBLEM

We live in a country that is fast changing and diversifying in ways that previous generations never had to think about. Much of it is taking place on campuses all over the country.

Additionally, current social and economic shifts have made our workforce more **multi-generational, multi-ethnic** and **multi-cultural** than ever before.

At the same time we are also segregating into smaller and smaller “like-minded” communities.

The traditional ways that we have seen people different than us rarely help us get to the heart of difference or similarity. (We all stereotype. It is part of human behavior. We must make ourselves aware of our unconscious stereotyping in order to get past it!)

The Media is not designed to give you a realistic look at any one person or group. They give you a concentrated, exaggerated and often times dramatic version.

The lack of exposure to different cultural groups often leads to stereotyping, and at their worst, that can lead to hateful and sometimes violent incidents.

THE SOLUTION

You will never have a better opportunity to explore so many different cultures and orientations from your own than you your time here. Once you get into the “real world” seeking them out becomes more of a challenge.

There are dozens of clubs and organizations that will welcome you and give you a much broader perspective of how the world operates. They will not chase you off!

Hang out with them.

Find out about them.

Support them.

PUT IT ON YOUR RESUME!

The more you know and experience cultural difference and diversity the more marketable you become in the real world. You will improve your character and become a more interesting person

Learn a language

Go abroad

Explore the cultures and communities you know the least about.

Explore your own culture.

The more you know about your own, the more you will find points of connective tissue (similarities based in experience/pain) between yours and others.

PUT IT ON YOUR RESUME!

BE COURAGEOUS!

Have the courage to ***engage those who are different than you.*** (It almost always pays off)

Don't be afraid to (respectfully) ***ask the questions that get to the core of differences.***

Be ready to ***stand up when you see someone else's human dignity being compromised.*** (Don't ever think it can't be you!)

You were INVITED here.

They did not invite part of you. They did not invite *just* your religion or *just* your gender or *just* your physical or intellectual abilities. They invited ***ALL*** of you. And that is the you, you should share with this new community.

Moreover, this is what you should look to explore in others.

If you put yourself in a position where you have to stretch outside your comfort zone, then you are forced to expand your consciousness.

Les Brown



Dialogues On Diversity

A Social Justice Theater Company

www.dialoguesondiversity.com

GET OUT OF YOUR BUBBLE!

Diversity Orientation Program



We need to give each other the space to grow, to be ourselves, to exercise our diversity. We need to give each other space so that we may both give and receive such beautiful things as ideas, openness, dignity, joy, healing, and inclusion.

Max de Pres