

Diversity Workshops for SLU Teaching Faculty

To provide practical opportunities for faculty to create more inclusive classes and to promote dialogue across difference, SLU will host a day of faculty development opportunities for teaching faculty. All events will be held **November 14, 2014, in 173 Busch Student Center**. Seating is limited; registration is required.

Diversity and 'Higher Education': Preparing Students to Make a World of Difference

An Interactive Keynote: 9:00-11:00 a.m., registration & continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m.

"Higher" forms of learning are thwarted unless diverse perspectives are centralized within the learning experience. As educators, it is our responsibility to prepare students for a future whereby contemporary cultural issues – both locally and globally – are interwoven within course content. This interactive keynote will provide a foundation for such work, and include experiential opportunities for participants to come to understand what this means for their particular pedagogy.

Engaging Taboo Topics in the Classroom: The Power of Dialogic Moments

An Interactive Workshop: 1:00-4:00 p.m., registration at 12:30 p.m.

In many contexts, issues related to diversity – race, sexuality, spirituality, disability, politics, and the like – constitute "taboo topics" that are seen as volatile and divisive, and consequently damaging to a productive learning environment. This workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to reflect on how engaging taboo topics in the classroom can serve as a means to address multiple cultural and global perspectives. In particular, participants will learn the shortcomings of discussion/debate and the benefits that come with creating a classroom culture where dialogic moments emerge along heightened levels of learning.



Dr. Mark Orbe is Professor of Communication & Diversity in the School of Communication at Western Michigan University; he also holds a joint appointment in Gender and Women's Studies. He has degrees in Interpersonal / Intercultural Communication, Organizational Communication, and Higher Education Administration. His work focuses on the inextricable relationship between culture, power, and communication. He teaches a wide variety of courses and maintains an active research program.

Dr. Orbe has presented and published widely; recent books include *Communication Realities in a 'Post-Racial' Society: What the US Public Really Thinks about President Obama* (Lexington Books, 2011); *Identity Research and Intercultural Communication: Reflections and Future Directions* (with N. Bardhan, Lexington Books, 2012); and *Critical Autoethnography: Intersecting Cultural Identities in Everyday Life* (with R. Boylorn, Left Coast Press, 2014). Dr. Orbe also shares his expertise beyond the walls of the university, consulting with corporate, educational, health-care and community-based organizations across the U.S. and abroad to promote communication competence in an increasingly diverse society.

Co-Sponsored By:
Office of Academic Affairs

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