

# Diversity Education Aids in Understanding

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As I am sure that every state with a land grant university with Extension is careful and mindful of its Diversity policies and efforts, Oklahoma State University certainly prides itself on its proactive Diversity teaching.

I have learned a great deal about diversity since I came to work at Extension. Early in my Extension career I enrolled in Leadership training and was fortunate to take many classes about the subject and have continued the practice as often as I am able. Some of the courses include:

Understanding Generational Differences  
Diversity Made Simple  
Understanding the Scars of Diversity  
How to Learn About Others Without Offending  
How to Talk About Symbols and Racism

I was fortunate to be involved in a couple of book studies offered by the university called Racial Justice Book Club, using the book "Waking Up White" and then later, "Killers of the Flower Moon". Each of these led to meaningful conversations of what the authors/characters in the stories went through. Each of them helped me to open my mind about what people of different ethnicities have gone through. Some of the participants had personal experiences of having been discriminated against.

During the NEAFCS Conference, I was able to attend a session, Diversity Panel Discussion. At this session, I learned there is still work to do in showing and working with indigenous people of their worth. It is all about building relationships with others. A meaningful phrase was Good Intentions vs Knowledgeable Actions. What are the solutions; appropriate, needed and wanted? There has been much work accomplished but much more is needed.

I look forward to continued learning regarding diversity and am grateful to work for a university who strives to be at the top in this field.