ACTIVELY ENGAGING RELIGIOUS & SECULAR DIVERSITY ON CAMPUS

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INTERFAITH YOUTH CORE
February 3, 2012
Introductions & Objectives

• Define interfaith cooperation and explore its connection to higher education

• Identify basic skills and competencies necessary to engage in conversation concerning religious, spiritual, and secular diversity with students and colleagues

• Explore how campuses can be models for interfaith cooperation
What do we mean by “Interfaith Cooperation?”

The Pluralism Project: Religious Pluralism

Harvard scholar Diana Eck defines interfaith cooperation as “the active engagement of diversity to a positive end.”

Interfaith Youth Core: Interfaith Cooperation

- **Respect**
  - respect for religious and non-religious identity
- **Relationships**
  - mutually inspiring relationships
- **Common Action**
  - common action for the common good
What would you do?

• Situation 1: A student has just approached you complaining that his roommate wakes up every morning really early to pray. This student wants to change roommates.

• Situation 2: A Muslim student complains that her roommate keeps bringing her boyfriend over at night when the student is not wearing hijab.

• Situation 3: A student approaches you to say that the leader of the local habitat chapter begins each service day with a Christian prayer. This student is not religious and wants to stop volunteering.

• Situation 4: A student approaches you to say that his Christian Scientist roommate has been sick for several weeks without going to Student Health.

• Situation 5: A Jewish student approaches to say that his professor had declared in class that what the Palestinian people are suffering is worse than the Holocaust.

• Situation 6: A Hindu student come to you to say that his RA is cooking veggie burgers and hamburgers on the same grill at the hall barbeque.

• Situation 7: A Christian student feels denigrated when his bio professor scoffs at faith and religion in class.
IFYC’s Theory of Campus Change

VISION
- Urgency: Why now?
- Relevance: Why us?
- Excellence: What is success?

ECOLOGY
- President & Admin.
- Staff
- Faculty
- Students

STUDENT OUTCOMES
- Student knowledge, attitudes, behaviors
- Creation of IF leaders

CAMPUS OUTCOMES
- Campus Climate
- Sustainable Structures
Interfaith Youth Core helps campuses cast a vision for interfaith cooperation on campus. This vision is marked by three distinguishing features:

**Urgency**

- Religious bigotry
- Religious conflict
- Religious ignorance

**Relevance**

- Connection to mission
- Education for a modern world
- Cultivating global citizens

**Excellence**

- Cross-campus; high level
- High participation
- Action oriented
- Measurable
Interfaith Youth Core helps campuses build an **ecology** that supports interfaith cooperation across all layers of the institution.
STUDENT OUTCOMES

Student outcomes are the end result of IFYC’s programming on campus – the real measurable change we want our engagements to drive. Results will be measured by student surveys.

STUDENT BODY

Levels of Interfaith Leadership

Unaware / Unsupportive

Supporters

Conversation Changers

Activists

Transformers

% of student body

Knowledge

Attitudes

Behaviors

Yr. 1

Yr. 2

Yr. 3

% of student body
IFYC campus outcomes are another end result of IFYC’s programming on campus – the real measurable change we want our engagements to drive.

Our ecology-transforming programming will produce these outcomes in the long term. Results will be measured through student, faculty and staff surveys.

**Campus Climate Outcomes**

- “This institution’s mission is inclusive of diverse religious and non-religious viewpoints.”
- “This campus is a safe space for the expression of all religious and non-religious worldviews.”
- “Non-religious people have a place on this campus.”

**Sustainability Structures**

- President & Admin.
- Faculty
- Staff
- Students
Take a look at your ecology:

President & High Level Administration

- Faculty
- Staff
- Students

Where are your assets?
Where are your challenges?
Resources

• Stay in touch!
  – cassie@ifyc.org
  – @CassieMMeyer on Twitter
• Get more resources!
  – www.ifyc.org/resources
  – Faculty & Staff Page
  – President’s Challenge Page
• Bring us out or come to us!
  – Interfaith Leadership Institutes
  – Campus Engagements
• Journal of College and Character