The Importance of Diversity Explored

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Disclaimer: The ideas & opinions expressed are solely those of Latonia Harris.

Engineering Excellence - A Snapshot in Time Chemical Engineering at University of Michigan ~1990

CP

- Ph.D. Chem E
- 24 Patents
- 20+ yrs catalysis





JR

- MS Chem E
- MBA
- 20+ yrs Pharma

LH

- Ph.D. Chem E
- NAE
- 20+ yrs Pharma

DG

- Double Major
- 13 yrs auto industry
- Chemistry Teacher



INTENTIONAL RECRUITMENT & SUPPORT -> TANGIBLE POSITIVE OUTCOMES

Expanded Network of Diverse Engineering Excellence



















CHRIST































Kizzmekia Corbett, Ph.D.



Latonia Harris, Ph.D.





EXCELLENCE DIVERSE PROFESSIONALS → **POSITIVE OUTCOMES for SOCIETY**



Diversity in STEMM Positively Impacts the Bottom Line of Companies Across the Globe

- Untapped talent / underutilized intellect translates to unrealized profits and innovation in companies
- Global Competitiveness in STEMM will depend upon how effectively we utilize ALL talent within our borders



Industry Approaches to Increasing DEI

- Communication of Intent to Increase Number of Diverse Hires
- Support of Affinity Groups
- Creation and Support of DEI boards and groups
- Mentoring Program (Ex. J&J Scientist Mentoring & Diversity Program)
- Sponsorship Programs

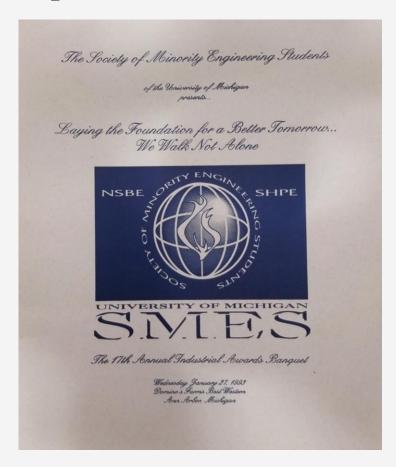


Additional Considerations

- Most important factor in job satisfaction is often relationship with direct manager. Does that person embrace diversity?
 - Are you seen? Valued? Included? Supported?
 - What is the work environment? Company Culture?
- HIRING: Expecting large numbers of diverse candidates to apply for open positions will not likely result in significant increases in the number of diverse hires
 - Strategic and intentional targeting diverse groups is more likely to be effective
 - Recruit via professional societies focusing on underrepresented groups
 - Recruit at universities with diverse student populations
 - Develop a reputation for being a place where diverse talent is treated fairly and supported



Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Perspective Gained 3 Decades after U of M



Laying the Foundation for a Better Tomorrow ... We Walk Not Alone

- The diverse engineers in SMES were indeed the Leaders & Best
- Backlash and Resistance to programs focused on the recruitment and support of underrepresented groups has impacted today's environment
- The NEED STILL EXISTS for SUSTAINED and UNIFIED EFFORTS to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion while addressing racism



Thank Youss

