AASCU Webinar
Campus Demonstrations: Empowering Student and Community Voices in a Respectful, Safe Environment – Lessons Learned
8/17/16
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Why Worry? 😞

Students are making it known in explicit terms that the only acceptable response from their institutions is sensitive, caring, tangible, justice-centered leadership.

Larry Roper

Some Data:

- 30% of whites and 46% of minorities say they were raised in families that talk about race.
- 73% believe that we should talk “more openly” about bias, only 20% say they’re comfortable doing so.
- 78% Colleges believe they should expose students to all types of speech and viewpoints. Only 66% of U.S. adults feel the same.
- 70% of white college students believe the right of people to assemble is secure. 39% of Black college students feel the same.
Student Demands Across the Country

- **88%** Changes to curricula or departments.
- **87%** Greater support for minority students, especially black students.
- **79%** Greater faculty diversity.
- **60%** More funding for multicultural centers.
- **43%** Better ways of reporting hate crimes, discrimination or bias.
- **24%** Renaming of mascots or buildings.
What’s Different Today?

1. Social media takes the local and makes it national.
2. Student activists are connecting around strategy.
3. Leadership around social justice activism is more fluid and less organizationally bound.
4. What you say and how you say it matters more today.
5. When you say it and how quickly you say it matters. Less time to be thoughtful.
Key Principles

1. Lead from the top
   a. Uphold campus as place for robust exchange of ideas
   b. Engage in authentic conversations: Learn, Listen, Speak
   c. Model civil engagement using facts, evidence, and logical reasoning

2. Re-emphasize statement of Values

3. Take advantage of teachable moments

4. Support student led efforts

5. Teach cultural competency

6. Diversify institutional leadership and faculty

7. Encourage bias training

8. Deal swiftly with complaints
Steps to Take

1. Campus climate survey
2. Diversity of faculty and staff reflect diversity of student body
3. Support all students
4. Invest in a thriving cultural center
5. Address racial discrimination
6. Campus celebrations
7. Identify safe spaces
Other Ideas

1. Engage in Facilitated conversations, e.g.,
   a. Tri-Institutional “Hot Topics” series,
   b. Student Conflict Ambassador Facilitated Dialogues, and
   c. MSU Denver’s SGA Election-Themed events and activities

2. Create a “Contemporary/Current Issue Response Team” (CIRT)

3. Be attentive and proactive
What Ideas Do You Have?
Maya Angelou

“Do The Best You Can Until You Know Better. Then, When You Know Better, Do Better.”