

Talking points: Conversations about race and ethnicity

Abstract

Scholars and administrators in higher education alike agree that creating a campus environment that reflects the ethnic diversity of the nation is paramount to preparing students for a successful future. Such diversity, however, is only meaningful if it is accompanied by a milieu wherein conversations about the contemporary realities of race and diversity are commonplace, both in and outside the classroom. While the University of Maine currently has several efforts in place to diversify the campus, both at the student and faculty level, the university lacks a program that encourages dialogue about race among students and faculty. The proposed project, *Talking Points* aims to close this gap through workshops on issues related to race and how to discuss these in and outside the classroom as well as experiential learning events, i.e., screenings and reading circles aimed to stimulate discussions about race.