

What is Diversity, and

Why do Colleges and Universities strive to have Diverse Population?

[Name of the Writer]

[Name of the Institution]

Introduction

This paper discusses the concept of diversity and its importance for colleges and universities. The paper also discusses diversity in particular relation to the students of Prince Georges Community College.

Diversity

Diversity refers to the condition of having composed of different elements. For example, if there are people of different cultures or races in a group, the group is termed as a diverse group. Differences may exist among people on the basis of color, age, gender, religion, and ethnicity. When the differences are harmonized and valued for the creation of a productive environment, the process is termed as pluralism. Pluralism has the characteristic of making everyone aware of the variety of viewpoints (Berner, 2012). Diversity occurs in a situation when there is a relationship between one idea and anything else. The difference is a generative condition that is created due to relationships among things.

Colleges and Universities strive to have Diverse Population

Colleges and universities strive to have a diverse population due to various reasons. Diversity enriches the experience of education. People learn from other persons whose beliefs, perspectives, and experiences are different. It also results in the promotion of a healthy society and a personal growth. Diversity encourages critical thinking and challenge stereotype preconceptions (Pascarella et al., 2014). Students who are educated in a diverse setting are better prepared for a pluralistic society than the students educated in a uniformed setting. When students are exposed to diverse individuals and views, the exposure broadens their perspectives

and increases their knowledge of the realities of the world. Diversity increases the economic competitiveness of the country. It brings together the talents and abilities of people with diverse cultures and backgrounds.

Diversity for Prince George's Community College Students

Prince George's Community College provides education services to around 40,000 students. The students have a diverse background in terms of their countries of origin, gender, ethnicity, and age. It is important for the students of the college to embrace diversity. The differences among people provide the students an opportunity to know and appreciate other cultures, languages, learning styles, and ways of living. People in the college come from different ethnic backgrounds. They include African American, American Indian, Asian American, Hawaiian, and Hispanic (PGCC, 2013). Ethnic diversity has a positive impact on the support of students for multiculturalism (van Geel & Vedder, 2010).

Personal Experience

I am an African American. My experience of interacting with people of different backgrounds has been very enriching. People of different ethnicities have different approaches towards life. They have different aspirations and career goals. At first, I had to adjust to their way of communication. I had difficulties in understanding their accents and flow of communication. I came to know that priorities of life change significantly with the differences in cultures, regions, and ethnicities. I gained much knowledge about their culture and regions by interacting and communicating with them. I realized that diversity is a source of great learning. If

my college had only African American people, I would have missed all this knowledge and interactions with diverse people.

Conclusion

Diversity in a relationship occurs due to the differences of people in age, gender, ethnicity, language, religion, and region. The differences are not a source of conflict. Instead, they provide an opportunity of learning, sharing, and enrichment for diverse population.

References

Berner, A. R. (2012). The Case for Educational Pluralism. *First Things*, Retrieved from
<http://www.firstthings.com/article/2012/12/the-case-for-educational-pluralism>

Pascarella, E. T., Martin, G. L., Hanson, J. M., Trolian, T. L., Gillig, B., & Blaich, C. (2014). Effects of Diversity Experiences on Critical Thinking Skills Over 4 Years of College. *Journal of College Student Development*, 55(1). doi:10.1353/csd.2014.0009

PGCC. (2013). Prince George's Community College Fall 2013 Fast Facts. *Prince George's Community College*. Retrieved from
http://www.pgcc.edu/uploadedFiles/Pages/About_PGCC/opair/PGCC%20Fact%20Sheet%20Fall%202013.pdf

van Geel, M., & Vedder, P. (2010). Multicultural attitudes among adolescents: The role of ethnic diversity in the classroom. *Group processes & intergroup relations*. 14(4). doi:10.1177/1368430210379007