Examining the Racial Implications of COVID-19 through Courageous Conversations

Adrienne Coleman, Ed.D.
Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Speaker | Researcher | DEI Expert
She, Her, Hers
Xenophobia is Spreading like the Virus Itself…

- “China Virus”
- “Diseased Chinese People”
- “Go Back to China”

MICROAGGRESSIONS
Why are Black People Dying at Higher Rates from COVID-19?

RACISM
Why are Latinos Being Hospitalized for Coronavirus up to Three Times the Rate of White Americans?

Undocumented and DACA Status

Racism
Courageous Conversations

- **Stay engaged:** Staying engaged means “remaining morally, emotionally, intellectually, and socially involved in the dialogue”

- **Experience discomfort:** This norm acknowledges that discomfort is inevitable, especially, in dialogue about race, and that participants make a commitment to bring issues into the open. It is not talking about these issues that create divisiveness. The divisiveness already exists in the society and in our schools. It is through dialogue, even when uncomfortable, the healing and change begin.

- **Speak your truth:** This means being open about thoughts and feelings and not just saying what you think others want to hear.

- **Expect and accept non-closure:** This agreement asks participants to “hang out in uncertainty” and not rush to quick solutions, especially in relation to racial understanding, which requires ongoing dialogue (pp.58-65).
IMSA’s Courageous Conversation Series…

- Asian Students in America (ASIA)
  - “I am Not a Virus”
- Black Student Union (BSU)
  - The Impact of COVID-19 on the Black Community
- Indian Student Association (ISA)
  - COVID 19 in India and America
- Eastern European Association (EEA)
  - COVID-19 in Europe
- Irish America Students (IAS)
  - COVID-19 in Europe
CHALLENGE

How to disrupt systemic racism in Black and Latino Communities that have caused underlying factors such as health disparities and economic inequities, contributing to higher incidence of coronavirus in their communities?
The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy values a diverse community and is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive academic, social and work environment in which all members of the community are treated with respect and dignity and research, learning and scholarship can flourish, even in this time of remote teaching and learning.

Equity and Excellence Policy

Bias Incident On-Line Reporting

Art as Artillery : The Power of Hip Hop & Poetry“

Emergency Relief Fund
Interrupt
Question
Educate
Echo

How to Respond to Coronavirus Racism
Create a Sense of Safety

Stay Connected to your Students

Promote Hope

Check your Social-Emotional Well-Being

A Trauma-Informed Approach to Teaching Through Coronavirus