

Dr. DeRionne Pollard, President,
Montgomery College
Recognizing and Embracing the Counter Narrative: Gender, Race, and Sexual Orientation in the Classroom and Work Environment
October 25th, 2012

Attendance

- Sixty-five individuals attended and 53 completed evaluations.
 - Forty attendees were faculty, five were administrators, three were staff, two were academic advisor, one was a student, and three did not specify their roles. It is important to note that one attendee chose two options for her/his role.

Quantitative Results from the Evaluation Form

My understanding of the differences related to gender, race, and/or sexual orientation has increased as a result of attending this lecture.

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Disagree	5	9.4	9.6
Agree	28	52.8	63.5
Strongly Agree	19	35.8	100.0
Missing Data	1	1.9	
Total	53	100.0	

I will be able to use the information that I learned today in my work with students at NDSU.

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Disagree	1	1.9	2.0
Agree	21	39.6	43.1
Strongly Agree	29	54.7	100.0
Missing Data	2	3.8	
Total	53	100.0	

I will be able to use the information that I learned today in my work and/or interactions with other faculty at NDSU.

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Agree	21	39.6	42.0
Strongly Agree	29	54.7	100.0
Missing Data	3	5.7	
Total	53	100.0	

I would recommend this lecture to others.

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Disagree	1	1.9	2.0
Agree	16	30.2	33.3
Strongly Agree	34	64.2	100.0
Missing Data	2	3.8	
Total	53	100.0	

Rate the overall quality of this lecture:

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Average	5	9.4	10.4
Above Average	16	30.2	43.8
Excellent	27	50.9	100.0
Missing Data	5	9.4	
Total	53	100.0	

Qualitative Results from the Evaluation Form

1. What questions do you still have after attending this lecture? Please list any areas and/or topics that you would like to receive additional information about or that need further clarification.
 - Addressing outright discrimination
 - Great ideas, though implementation is more difficult.
 - How can we link our faculty who are encouraging diversity through their pedagogy?
 - How do you responsibly build difference into a class or curriculum?
 - Most of my questions were posed/answered during the Q & A
 - How to approach students that have different personality?
 - This is the 1st time we invite a lesbian speaker. I didn't see this in my daily life or anyone that I know.
 - How to use the knowledge of diversity to better mentor students/faculty?
 - Sometimes I find the concepts presented in lectures such as these [are] difficult to apply to STEM disciplines.
 - What are typical pitfalls people fall into, particularly regarding sexuality in the classroom.
 - How can we encourage and enable more faculty to use the pedagogical strategies and approach highlighted by Dr. Pollard?

2. What do you think were the most helpful or valuable aspects of the lecture you attended today?
 - Acknowledging power educator has and the intentionality that should be present. Discussion of 'normative language.'
 - Just focusing thoughts on crafting a learning environment that is all inclusive (including thinking of unintentional consequences of words/environment/etc.)
 - Very well articulated.
 - Specific suggestions for inclusiveness in the classroom and how to cultivate it.
 - Exploration
 - The time for questions & interaction; great speaker, very comfortable.
 - The phrase 'give host to the alien other'
 - The way she articulated the concepts about intentionally
 - Excellent data
 - I liked her examples/stories
 - Her honesty
 - Concrete suggestions for implementing intention in the classroom, dialogue
 - She was very engaging – great to have her here
 - Dr. Pollard's fresh, positive attitude and sharing of her personnel history.
 - Excellent speaker who introduced useful concepts relevant to faculty at NDSU
 - Discuss expectation and exploration in the first class [meeting].
 - Recognize the difference engage students in learning.
 - Considering how assumptions can alienate people
 - I appreciated her thoughts on the power of language
 - Giving host to the alien other with my advisees who are 'the others'
 - Ideas about ways to structure classroom interaction
 - Interestingly, I find myself thinking about the power of narrative and want to capture some stories for teaching and learning.
 - The speaker's level of openness, engagement, and authenticity. I was especially impressed with the invitational and interaction style that she exhibited.
 - The personal accounts and experience
 - Some aspects of positive classroom environment and engaging students with their expectations.

3. What is one thing you will do differently as a result of attending this lecture?
 - Notice 'planting seeds.'
 - Be more mindful in student-teacher interactions.
 - Utilize more class examples of non-majority groups during lessons.
 - Exploration

- Be more outspoken about talking w/ faculty about these issues.
 - Be even more intentional about ‘giving host to the alien other’
 - Think a lot more about my language use
 - Set expectations for students
 - Be bolder to continue this work
 - Develop rules of discourse at start of the semester (with students)
 - Attempt to see/conduct interactions w/ students using a different perspective
 - Aware of how syllabus is written, how to engage students
 - Don’t just assume things – be careful about language used in the classroom.
 - I want to try to build more of a sense of community in the classroom.
 - Inclusive language
 - Use Socratic Method in helping students develop on understanding of expectations i.e. why can’t work be turned in later, etc.
 - I’m thinking about a blog that captures a learning story a day, any learning story but particularly emphasizing disorienting dilemmas and hosting the other.
 - Be even more intentional about the environment and expectations I’m promoting in my classes and the college.
 - Languages we use in the class.
4. How could this lecture have been improved to be more beneficial to you? What recommendations do you have for future lectures?
- Be more intentional about intention in a variety of settings and ways.
 - Make more structured and relatable to multiple disciplines.
 - Microphones for questions/comments
 - Explore more about how this message relates to our focus as a research institution.
 - More discussion on gender & gendered issues would have been useful
 - No improvement needed! I would recommend the same lack of powerpoint for future lecturers (it’s much more dynamic)
 - Let students [be] involved in.
 - I don’t have any recommendation other than to have a larger space so more people can attend.
 - While on some level, I appreciated the more general nature of the lecture, a little more information about gender, race, class issues would help (more directly).
 - Dr. Pollard did an excellent job. Perhaps she could have allowed even more time for interaction and questions.
5. Please provide any additional comments you have about today’s lecture and/or the FORWARD program in general below or on the back of this page.
- Wonderful presenter – passionate & knowledgeable about topic.
 - We need to have some lecturers on engaging local communities/schools in outreach.
 - Good discussion at end (all women contributing...)
 - Another person on student evaluations.
 - Excellent
 - Thank you!
 - Awesome!
 - Enjoyed this talk
 - Speaking of assumptions – pasta bar is the worst – you are assuming everyone can eat wheat & I can’t!☺”
 - Awesome!