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Topic Essay 4: What You Have Learned

Upon taking this course for the last six weeks, I have learned some new things and relearned some others. As this isn't my first diversity class that I have taken within the last two years of college (the other one being strictly focused on women's diversity), I have been able to broaden my scope of the subject matter amongst a wide variety of peoples as per reading from the various course texts/discussions. With that being said, I have learned the significance of using diversity skills in order to properly advance in whatever requires them, whether being a school assignment, a real-world project, or interpersonal affairs.

In explaining how I am able to use my diversity skills for the future, I must establish a work plan or goal (in this case, one of ambition); this is with regards to how to succeed in my dream endeavors. As someone who faced some of the worst consequences of certain life decisions, I am motivated to set up projects and become financially and personally successful, which ultimately makes me a happier and more inspirational person for others to look up to. In fact, some, if not all of my ambitions originate from my struggles and problems that I've faced throughout my life including schooling, family, and social work interactions.

One of my future projects that I have already touched forth into was establishing a school which could unify all educational levels in favor of a closer, tight-knit community built on similar resources, structures, and fluidity in learning (both in and out of the classroom). Some of the diversity skills needed here to make this a reality is communication and teamwork. These skills are very important to maintain in such an establishment and I would engage in this within the faculty and promote this heavily in the student body. Communication would ensure that no

one would be left out in decisions and teamwork would reinforce this by assigning a specified role per participant. Another future project that I am willing to take on is a new fast food business concept. This concept will revolutionize the way consumers order their meals and would do away with reliance on human to human interactions for such. Involving myself in this kind of project would take skills in leadership and conflict management. In being a leader, I would essentially be the person who advocates, develops, and oversees the execution of this project (even with the help of cohorts and coworkers). Using conflict management in this case would tie in to leadership as it would reinforce my role to manage each business problem (as well as the people behind them) per scenario.

My perception of diversity has changed throughout the course; the elements responsible for this change were the discussion threads and textbook readings. For me, there are many ways of how my perception of diversity changed. The most profound way was with regards to thinking about the circumstances of each and every person at hand while engaging in social interactions. Through reading the discussions, I've learned that in scenarios that involve teamwork, one must be able to treat each other as appropriately enough as justified by any handicap a person may possess. Handicaps including mental and physical disabilities must be taken in consideration as to not expect a level of performance that is equal to one of no handicaps. While knowing this was expected, the level of importance and reasoning reinforced why handling this situation is required. Furthermore, to connect with the course, when approaching diversity amongst many racial/ethnic backgrounds, we again must treat those individuals with a level of appropriateness (i.e. speaking slowly, excusing/acknowledging their different customs). To apply a diversity skill here, I would use flexible thinking to meet people half-way instead of expecting 100% effort

from many whom I can't know if they could act upon their word, whether intentionally or non-intentionally.