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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY HAS NO REQUIRED TRAINING FOR FACULTY OR STAFF ABOUT DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION.

IOWA STATE IS A LARGE UNIVERSITY, HAVING 34,000 STUDENTS AND OVER 2,000 FACULTY/STAFF.

IT CAN BE EASY WITH THIS MANY PEOPLE FOR SOME ISSUES CAN BE PUSHED TO THE SIDE. FOR EXAMPLE, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION.

KENYATTA SHAMBURGER IS THE DIRECTOR OF MULTICULTURAL STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS.

HE SAYS THAT DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION RANGES A LARGE GAMUT, AND THAT TRAINING COMES IN A VARIETY OF WAYS.

WHILE THERE ARE NO REQUIRED TRAININGS, THERE ARE A VARIETY OF OPTIONAL TRAININGS FACULTY/STAFF AND STUDENTS ALIKE CAN PARTAKE IN.

FOR FACULTY/STAFF IT COULD COME FROM THEIR TIME AS A STUDENT, OR PERHAPS A WORKSHOP IN A MEETING. THERE ARE ALSO A VARIETY OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE TRAINING ON CAMPUS.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION TRAINING HELPS CREATES A MORE WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT, SHAMBURGER SAID, WHICH IS A CRUCIAL PART OF THE LAND GRANT MISSION OF ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR ALL IOWANS.

SPECIFICALLY IN REGARDS TO GENDER INCLUSION, PARKS LIBRARY IS MAKING ITS OWN STRIDES.

BETH MCNEIL, DEAN OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, SAID RENOVATIONS FOR RESTROOMS ON FIVE FLOORS IN PARKS LIBRARY BEGAN OVER THE SUMMER.

THESE RENOVATIONS INCLUDE MAKING THE RESTROOMS ADA ACCESSIBLE, AND ADDING GENDER INCLUSIVE RESTROOMS THROUGHOUT.

APART FROM THESE RENOVATIONS, PARKS LIBRARY ALLOWS GROUPS TO HOLD MEETINGS IN SPACES WITHIN THE LIBRARY, SOME OF WHICH ADDRESS GENDER ISSUES.

TRINITY DEARBORN THINKS THERE NEEDS TO BE MORE EDUCATION ABOUT PRONOUNS FOR STUDENTS. DEARBORN IS THE VICE PRESIDENT OF PRIDE ALLIANCE AND ASEXUAL AROMANTIC ALLIANCE AT IOWA STATE.

THEY SAID THAT OFTENTIMES, A STUDENT'S FIRST EXPOSURE TO DIFFERENT PRONOUNS IS AT COLLEGE. STUDENTS MAY NOT BE COGNIZANT OF NON-BINARY PRONOUNS.

DEARBORN SAID THE CENTER FOR LGBTQIA+ SUCCESS HAS A LOT OF RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS, INCLUDING A PRONOUN GUIDE, THE TRANS AT ISU GUIDE AND A GENDER INCLUSIVE RESTROOM MAP.

WHILE DEARBORN APPRECIATES THESE RESOURCES, THEY FEEL THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE TO SEARCH FOR GENDER INCLUSIVE RESTROOMS. SHE SAYS THAT ANY STEP IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

I'M IAN STEENHOEK, REPORTING FROM AMES FOR J-303.

Sources

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