Diversity Awareness

Materials:

Handout for each student, URI View books (PDF available online), Fact Sheet
Facilitator’s questions

Objective:

Allows students to compare the diversity of their URI 101 Class to URI’s population.

Instructions:

Begin with a short discussion about diversity. Explain the definition and review information listed below.

Definition:

1: differing from one another : UNLIKE
2: composed of distinct or unlike elements or qualities

- Diversity is "otherness," or those human qualities that are different from our own and outside the groups to which we belong, yet are present in other individuals and groups. It is important to distinguish between the primary and secondary dimensions of diversity.
- Primary dimensions are the following: age, ethnicity, gender, physical abilities/qualities, race and sexual orientation.
- Secondary dimensions of diversity are those that can be changed, and include, but are not limited to: educational background, geographic location, income, marital status, military experience, parental status, religious beliefs, and work experiences.

Have your students look through the URI Undergraduate admissions view books and compare the diversity in the view books to the diversity in their own class. From these sources they should fill in information in their handout. If they can’t find an answer or they don’t want to ask their peers about sensitive issues they can leave that box empty.

Debriefing:

- What did this activity teach you?
- Was there anything you learned that you weren’t aware of before?
- What could you not find in the view book or on the fact sheet?
• If it isn’t listed in the view book or on the fact sheet, where could you find out if there are people like you who go to URI?
• What boxes did you leave empty? What did you feel uncomfortable asking people in the class about?
**Group 1: Age, Gender & Geographical Location**

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<th>URI 101 Class</th>
<th>URI Population</th>
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**Group 2: Ethnicity, Race among students and faculty**

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Group 3: Sexual Orientation & Religion

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Group 4: Physical Abilities/Qualities & Majors

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URI Facts Fall 2012 (Fall 2013 not published until mid-October)

- Most URI students come from Rhode Island (63%) -- Followed by Massachusetts (12%), Connecticut (7%), New Jersey (6%), and New York (6%).
- On average, URI full time degree-seeking undergraduates are 21 years old -- 11 percent are 25 or older.
- The most popular undergraduate major is Nursing - followed by Psychology, Communication Studies, Kinesiology and Human Development & Family Studies.
- 47.9 percent of 2012 freshmen are Rhode Islanders.
- 63 percent of 2012 degree-seeking undergraduates are Rhode Islanders.
- About 13% of URI female undergraduate student join sororities and 12% male undergraduate students join fraternities.
- URI students hail from 53 U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.
- 91 percent of URI freshmen live in the residence halls.