

Responses to “Why is diversity, equity, and inclusion important to our community?”

- Communities most affected by environmental degradation should have a large voice.
- Inclusion of diverse traditions strengthens the EE mission!
- We want to focus on “the self” before changing the system!
- The health of our environment is equally important for absolutely everyone.
- Because we’re not diverse yet!
- Diverse leadership → diverse ideas = relevance to communities
- Nurturing a relationship with the environment inspires advocacy for it.
- There is a rich tradition of environmental stewardship in traditional communities in NM; traditional values and knowledge can help to guide us.
- Different perspectives inform and enrich our teaching.
- EE promotes health and wellbeing for individuals, communities, and the planet.
- We all live here!
- There are “bright spots” in providing high quality EE to students, but how do we bring these experiences to all students?
- Schools/teachers don’t have flexibility, and this can lead to inequities.
- We should engage the widest audience possible in order to bring about change.
- Everyone should see themselves reflected in the EE community.
- To include marginalized stories so that everyone can be aware and care about them.
- We serve a diverse community, so we miss opportunities if our organizations don’t reflect that.
- Nature can be a bridge between communities.
- It’s a disservice to our community not to (create spaces of access and inclusion).
- It fosters community and knowledge of different cultures and people.
- All kids/people need nature for physical and mental wellbeing.
- We seek to create future citizens who care about the earth and want to protect it.
- Overcome societal issue of screen time
- To reflect our respective communities
- To share cultural perspectives with regard to nature and the environment
- To provide access/exposure to EE
- Nature connects and effects us all, regardless of background.
- It brings different perspectives, which is vital to our species.
- It provides a more balanced perspective--there are many different skill sets and solutions.
- We teach/serve a very diverse population.
- We should broaden our community and tear down the walls.
- We should connect to similar work/fields--find the common goals.
- It promotes resilience.
- It’s the right thing to do.
- We cannot stay in our own little world.
- Respect for the natural world is connected to respecting each other.

- Bringing communities/people impacted by environmental justice issues can help with problem solving.
- We need community-based solutions.
- A tree without water, soil, air, etc. does not thrive! Diversity is how nature and the natural world thrive.
- To not listen to the indigenous cultures of the land is to remain ignorant.
- We need connectivity between wild systems and should cross over into various populations. This is the idea of wildlife corridors translated to human populations. NM is a place of great and necessary migration.
- We should think ahead and plan for seven generations--what we do now has a direct impact on us now, but also on all future generations.
- Including youth in our conversations empowers and strengthens our voices going forward with the issues that are most important.
- If we know that history repeats itself, then why allow these patterns to continue over and over?
- We are a democracy! This (should) include freedom to be who we are and to feel safe as who we are, not threatened or marginalized.
- This mirrors principles of biodiversity.
- We should practice inclusion of talent and drive of all personalities.
- If we don't include all members of society, it becomes segregated.
- All minds and hands on board will improve problems of food insecurity, water issues, etc. Excluding 50% or more of the world's population means creating intercultural war rather than addressing what is at hand and is shared and important now!

Responses to "What is next for diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in our community?"

- Work on our understanding about why equity and EE is important
- Maintain and tend to our diversity of viewpoints and experiences
- Collaboration with other groups
- Invite people and perspectives that reflect the children we teach
- Language of inclusion (find commonalities)
- Find a 3rd space--listen more
- Use children as a resource--let them speak for themselves without appropriation
- Increase comfort level of communities of color in our field and organizations
- Approach organizations that serve underserved youth to offer EE, partnership
- Identify barriers to communities of color to working in the field of EE
- Maintain constant awareness
- Equitable allocation of school administration funds by school boards
- "Teach your children well." --Crosby, Stills, & Nash
- Educate the teachers who teach diverse populations! Collaborate and support these teachers and their students.
- Go to the public schools to reach diverse populations.

- Free EE membership to the boards of education; make friends and involve education policy makers in our meetings.
- Follow models such as the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP) and the Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP).
- Station ourselves as environmental educators right in the midst of public schools and underprivileged communities.