BUILDING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

THE TRANSITIONS TRUTH: SUPPORTING FIRST GENERATION AND LOW-INCOME STUDENTS AT VASSAR

OCTOBER 3, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

This workshop will help participants understand more about first generation and low-income students, how to adopt more equitable practices in our offices, and address our own perceptions, biases and experiences regarding this student community. The session will be informational, experiential, conversational, and include activities to stimulate your interest and action.

Facilitator: Capria Berry, Director of the Transitions Program

NAVIGATING TOUGH CONVERSATIONS AROUND PRONOUNS AND GENDER NEUTRAL SPACES

OCTOBER 18, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

This workshop will address concerns, questions, and anxieties that may arise around pronoun usage and gender neutral spaces. Participants will learn about campus resources, terminology, and leave the session with a deeper level of empathy, understanding, and tangible skills relating to gender, gender identity, gender expression and diversity.

Facilitator: Danushi Fernando, Director of LGBTQ and Gender Resources

IT HAPPENS HERE: SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AT VASSAR

NOVEMBER 13, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

Sexual violence happens in astounding and unacceptable rates to college students of all genders. This workshop, facilitated by the Director and Program Coordinator in the Sexual Assault and Violence Prevention (SAVP) Office, will offer definitions of sexual assault and consent, describe the scope of sexual violence and how individuals (especially those with intersecting marginalized identities) may feel the effects of their experience, and give an overview of campus resources. Finally, participants will learn about trauma-informed practices for their day-to-day work life and leave with increased confidence in their ability to respond to students who disclose experiences with sexual violence.

Facilitators: Nicole Wang, Director of the Sexual Assault and Violence Prevention (SAVP) Office
Erin Boss, Program Coordinator in the Sexual Assault and Violence Prevention (SAVP) Office

RELEVANT LITERACY ON A SECULAR CAMPUS

NOVEMBER 15, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

On a campus where we strive to have meaningful, critical conversations about identity, community, and social dynamics, what happens when religion is part of the conversation? In this workshop, we will use case-based scenarios to help you develop tools for discussing religions and religious identities with respect and nuance. Topics include reflecting on personal experience with religion and spirituality, examining the global and local context for various religious traditions represented at Vassar, as well as tips for creating a welcoming environment in offices, residence halls, and other campus environments.

Facilitators: Rev. Samuel H. Speers, Associate Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life and Contemplative Practices
Elizabeth Aeschlimann, The Rose and Irving Rachlin Director of Jewish Student Life and Assistant Director of Religious and Spiritual Life and Contemplative Practices
Nora Zaki, Advisor for Muslim Student Life at Vassar

SQUARE ONE: A CONVERSATION ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

NOVEMBER 19, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

In this “no-question-too-small” workshop, we will discuss introductory concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Topics will center race and ethnicity but include other social identities that make up our campus community. Come explore and learn a bit about each of the unique identities that form this great Vassar community and how we all fit within it!

Facilitator: Kevin Collins, Director of the ALANA Student Center

YOU DON’T SEEM DISABLED: ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT ACCESS, ABILITY, AND EFFORT

DECEMBER 6, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Across the campus, students and employees with disabilities often feel misunderstood and unheard. This session will bring awareness to unconscious assumptions that affect how we interact with people with disabilities. Participants will develop a vocabulary to discuss and understand disability and disability needs, increase awareness around ableist thinking that limits access, apply universal design (UD) to promote more inclusive physical spaces, and create a personal plan for awareness and being supportive of colleagues and students. As the 50th year approaches since the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Vassar examines how we support and include individuals with a variety of accessibility needs.

Facilitators: Mary Jo Cavanaugh, Moorhead Learning Specialist and Director of the Office for Accessibility and Educational Opportunity
Matthew Mueller, Moorhead Academic Coach

For more information and to register, click here: Professional Development Office website
Professional Development Office • Dean of the College Division • Main, South 185
profdevelopmentDoc@vassar.edu