Taking Deliberate Steps to Combat Racism in the Classroom

Karen Eley Sanders, EdD, Chief Diversity Officer, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

Dear Dean's Corner Reader,

In an effort to counteract medical practice that encourages racial profiling, a Tidelight Center for Health Systems Science (VTCSOM) initiative called the Classroom 2020, is spearheading efforts to combat racism in the classroom. This initiative is focused on creating a learning environment where students feel respected and valued.

The Classroom 2020 initiative was sparked by the realization that racism is a significant issue that cannot be swept under the rug. It is a call to action for faculty and students to actively work towards creating a more inclusive and welcoming learning environment.

The initiative includes a variety of strategies and tools to help faculty and students combat racism. These strategies include:

1. Acknowledging that racism is a real and significant issue.
2. Creating a safe space for students to share their experiences and feelings.
3. Encouraging open and respectful dialogue about race.
4. Providing resources for faculty and students to learn more about racism and its impact.
5. Developing strategies to address microaggressions and instances of racism.

The Classroom 2020 initiative is a collaborative effort between faculty, staff, and students. It aims to create a culture of inclusivity and respect that will benefit all members of the academic community.

We encourage you to join us in our efforts to combat racism in the classroom. Together, we can create a learning environment that values diversity and respects all individuals.

Best regards,
Karen Eley Sanders, EdD, Chief Diversity Officer, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

Dean's Corner

It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.

*Faculty Resources for Educational Excellence*

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For an at-a-glance view of our upcoming events for the next 3 months, please visit our OCPD Website.