

Creating Socially Just Organizations: Dismantling Institutionalized Racism and White Supremacy

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A Multicultural Organization

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1. Clear **commitment** to creating an inclusive organization
2. Seeks, develops, and values the **contributions and talents of all members**
3. Includes **all members as active participants** in decisions that shape the organization
4. **Members reflect diverse social and cultural groups** throughout all levels of the organization; and **demonstrate the multicultural competencies** to serve the increasingly diverse populations
5. **Acts** on its commitment to **eliminate** all forms of **exclusion and discrimination** within the organization, including classism, racism, sexism, heterosexism, ageism, disability oppression, religious oppression, etc.
6. Follows through on **broader social and environmental responsibilities**

Steps to Strategic Organizational Change

1. Gain leadership commitment and support
2. Form an Inclusion Change Team
3. Clarify and communicate the vision and institutional benefits of an inclusive, socially just organization: create a sense of urgency and an expectation for shared responsibility
4. Conduct a Comprehensive Cultural Audit to assess the current organizational dynamics and readiness for systems change
 - Develop a deep understanding of the dynamics of dominant and subordinated groups in the organization and in the community
 - “Map out” and assess the current organizational dynamics, climate, and structures (policies, practices, procedures, unwritten rules, norms)
5. Identify the “Best Practices” used by organizations
6. Top leaders and Inclusion Change Team analyze data from Cultural Audit and develop Strategic Plan
7. Implement strategic activities, including accountability structures
8. Evaluate progress and revise Strategic Plan and activities as needed

MCOD Developmental Stage Model*

*Sources:

Jackson, B. W (2006). Theory and practice of multicultural organization development. In Jones, B. B. & Brazzel, M. (Eds.), *The NTL Handbook of Organization Development and Change* (pps. 139-154). San Francisco, CA: Pfeiffer.

Jackson, B. W., & Hardiman, R. (1994). Multicultural organization development. In E. Y. Cross, J. H. Katz, F. A. Miller, & E. W. Seashore (Eds.), *The promise of diversity: Over 40 voices discuss strategies for eliminating discrimination in organizations* (pp. 231-239). Arlington, VA: NTL Institute.

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MONOCULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

Stage 1: The Exclusionary Organization

- Openly maintains the dominant group's power and privilege
- Deliberately restricts membership
- Intentionally designed to maintain dominance of one group over others
- Overt discriminatory, exclusionary, and harassing actions go unaddressed
- Unsafe and dangerous environment for subordinated group members
- Monocultural organization

Stage 2: "The Club"

- Maintains privilege of those who have traditionally held power and influence
- Monocultural norms, policies, and procedures of dominant culture viewed as the only "right" way: "business as usual"
- Dominant culture institutionalized in policies, procedures, services, etc.
- Limited number of "token" members from other social identity groups allowed in IF they have the "right" credentials, attitudes, behaviors, etc.
- Engages issues of diversity and social justice only on club member's terms and within their comfort zone

NON-DISCRIMINATING ORGANIZATIONS

Stage 3: The Compliance Organization

- Committed to removing some of the discrimination inherent in the Club organization
- Provides some access to some members of previously excluded groups
- No change in organizational culture, mission, or structure
- Focus: Do not make waves, or offend/challenge dominant group members

- Efforts to change profile of workforce (at bottom of organization)
- Token placements in staff positions: Must be “team players” and “qualified”
 - * Must assimilate into organizational culture
 - * Must not challenge the system or "rock the boat"
 - * Must not raise issues of sexism, racism, classism, heterosexism...

Stage 4: The Affirming Organization

- Demonstrated commitment to eliminating discriminatory practices and inherent advantages
- Actively recruiting and promoting members of groups that have been historically denied access and opportunity
- Providing support and career development opportunities to increase success and mobility of members of groups that have been historically denied access and opportunity
- Employees encouraged to be non-oppressive through awareness trainings
- Employees must assimilate to organizational culture

MULTICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

Stage 5: The Redefining Organization

- In transition
- Moving beyond “nondiscriminatory,” “non-oppressive”
- Working to create environment that “values and capitalizes on diversity”
- Working to ensure full inclusion of multicultural workforce to enhance growth and success of organization
- Begins to question limitations of organizational culture: mission, policies, structures, operations, services, management practices, climate, etc.
- Actively works towards developing a multicultural organization
- Committed to redesigning and implementing policies and practices to redistribute power, and ensure the inclusion, participation, and empowerment of all members

Stage 6: The Multicultural Organization

- Mission, values, operations, and services reflect the contributions and interests of the wide diversity of cultural and social identity groups
- Leaders and members act on the organizational commitment to eradicate all forms of oppression within the organization
- Members across all identity groups are full participants in decision-making
- Actively works in larger communities (regional, national, global) to eliminate all forms of oppression and to create multicultural organizations

Indicators of a Redefining/Inclusive Organization (Stage 5/6)

Partial List

A. Leadership

1. Leaders regularly discuss and communicate the division's and the department's vision and commitment to equity and inclusion for all students and staff to:
 - a. Create and maintain a safe, inclusive, and equitable work environment that:
 - i. actively engages and includes all staff,
 - ii. supports the full participation and success of all staff,
 - iii. is responsive to the needs of the increasingly diverse staff population, and
 - iv. actively eliminates all forms of discrimination, exclusion, and oppression in the workplace.
 - b. Develop, implement, and continually assess policies, structures, programs, practices, and services that:
 - i. support the persistence, success, and graduation of the full breadth of students on campus,
 - ii. are responsive to the needs of the increasingly diverse student population,
 - iii. actively eliminates all forms of exclusion, discrimination, and oppression.
 - c. Hire and retain a racially diverse, culturally competent staff throughout all levels of the organization that (at a minimum) reflects the demographics of the student population across the breadth of differences.
2. Leaders regularly discuss the "business case" ~ compelling reasons why the division's and the department's focus on diversity, equity and inclusion is central to the achievement of their overall divisional strategic goals.
3. Leaders regularly share their personal passion and commitment to achieving the diversity, equity, and inclusion goals.
4. Leaders regularly communicate clear guidelines/rules for expected behavior and clear consequences for exclusionary practices, inappropriate behavior, negligence, etc.
5. Leaders ensure the policies and procedures about workplace safety, harassment, hate crimes, non-discrimination, and inclusion are widely communicated, discussed, and enforced throughout the organization.
6. Leaders ensure that there are safe, confidential processes for reporting and resolving grievances, harassment, etc.
7. Leaders regularly attend programs and meetings exploring issues of inclusion and equity on campus and in the division.
8. Leaders develop and communicate a clear, concise list of multicultural competencies that all staff are expected to demonstrate in their daily work responsibilities.
9. Leaders demonstrate these core multicultural competencies in all aspects of their work activities.

10. Leaders ensure the successful completion of an annual comprehensive cultural audit (snapshot) of their division/department, including gathering baseline data; assessing policies, procedures, programs and services; analyzing demographic and assessment data; and developing measures of success.
11. Leaders engage department staff in dialogues about the results of the cultural audit (snapshot) and the recommendations for improvements.
12. Leaders meet quarterly with other department leaders to:
 - Review the current state of equity and inclusion within the division, and within each department
 - Develop plans for continuous improvement
13. Leaders provide needed resources and organizational infrastructure to ensure the success of equity and inclusion goals.
14. Leaders hold their direct reports and staff accountable for meeting the diversity, equity, and inclusion goals.
15. Leaders hold periodic open forums with staff to honestly discuss the current work climate and progress towards achieving diversity, equity and inclusion goals.
16. Leaders seek honest feedback from colleagues, members of their department, and students about:
 - Their effectiveness as a leader on issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion
 - The effectiveness of their staff on issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion

B. Planning and Decision-making

1. Planning processes intentionally include input from students and staff who are affected by the potential decisions and those who are involved in implementing the decisions.
2. Decisions are based on current data and input from a full range of stakeholders (i.e., climate and satisfaction surveys; utilization data; focus group data; input from open forums; etc.)
3. Decision-makers use the following prompts as they work to minimize any unintended exclusionary practices and attitudes in planning and decision-making discussions:
 - Do we have the full breadth of social identity groups and perspectives at the table? Involved in the process?
 - Does our process seriously consider the input and perspectives of a broad range of group memberships?
 - How might our unconscious attitudes and assumptions about ____ be playing out in this decision?
 - What could be the impact of this on students, staff, and faculty from various and intersecting dominant and subordinated groups?
 - How might this inadvertently advantage some and disadvantage others?

- How can we make this more inclusive for members of various and intersecting social identity groups?

D. Recruitment/Hiring

1. Processes for recruiting and hiring are reviewed and revised annually to better achieve the goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
2. Staff continually expand their professional networks in the field and in the community to develop connections for marketing position openings, identifying potential candidates, etc.
3. Position announcements highlight the preferred multicultural competencies for the specific job responsibilities.
4. All stated “minimum requirements” are essential to the position.
5. Any educational or other credential(s) and years of experience are listed as preferred, unless mandated by laws or regulations.
6. Position announcement and list of preferred competencies are distributed to a wide range of organizations, colleagues, listservs, and publications to maximize the attraction of a racially diverse, culturally competent pool of candidates.
7. All members of Search Committees demonstrate core multicultural competencies in their roles and are committed to the divisional and department goals for diversity, equity and inclusion.
8. All Search Committees are diverse by race and other categories of diversity.
9. Hiring Manager and/or department leader meet with the Search Committee to discuss their commitment to hiring a racially diverse, culturally competent staff.
10. Search Committee members receive training to minimize the potential that their biases will impact the selection process.
11. Search Committee members use the position description and list of preferred competencies and experiences as a guide as they review resumes, select candidates for interviews, develop interview questions, and evaluate candidates after interviews.
12. Search Committee members and participants in interview processes present a realistic view of the position, the campus environment, as well as the surrounding community with respect to issues of diversity equity and inclusion.
13. Hiring manager works with Search Committee to create a formal process to support the successful orientation and transition of new hires to the campus and local community (i.e., create a “Transition Team;” develop a formal mentoring process for all new hires; develop a plan for the new hire to develop working relationships with department team members and campus partners; etc.)

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Based on the 6-Stage model, *Multicultural Organization Development*
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