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Creating a Campus Community We Can All Enjoy

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Indiana University

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Creating a Campus Community We Can All Enjoy

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“Our intent is to send attendees home with greater insights into the diversity dialogue that can be used to create hospitable environments that nurture personal, professional and academic excellence.”

There is an African proverb "He who lives in the hut knows where it leaks." This powerful, comedic, insightful, thought provoking, interactive presentation takes you inside the "hut" while highlighting some of the current realities that hinder our diversity dialogues. Workshop attendees are helped to understand why they do or don't understand these realities. Our intent is to send attendees home with greater insights into the diversity dialogue that can be used to create hospitable environments that nurture personal, professional and academic excellence! The diversity dialogue is then simplified into:

- Dialogue on what diversity "is and isn't"
- Acknowledgement that "isms" are taught to us
- We must "agree to disagree" and "disagree without being disagreeable"
- Honest is a must!
- Acknowledgement that each of us views life through a "filter." Our education or lack thereof impacts that "filter" and our world view
- The concept of "normal" is relative. What's "normal" for one person does not have to be "normal" for others. Neither "normal" is wrong . . . just different.
- Do people in "diverse" communities value the very diversity within their community that they expect those outside the community to value?
- Diversity is not just an intellectual discussion. Nor, is it limited to race/ethnicity. Our talks must be inclusive!
- We must create a "safe" environment for honest diversity discussions

This unique workshop seeks to empower attendees to take an aggressive "value added" position related to diversity issues. These issues include, but are not limited to: racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism, ageism, etc.

This fun presentation is a must anyone concerned with breaking down the walls and barriers that historically have kept people apart!

PRESENTER:

Steve Birdine earned a B.A. degree in News-Editorial Journalism and a M.S. degree in Radio-Television Journalism from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is currently the coordinator of Diversity Programs at Indiana University, Bloomington. He is the former program director of Marcus Garvey Cultural Center at the University of Northern Colorado, and the former assistant director of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Black Cultural Center. He has presented at many local, state and national conferences, and has won numerous awards for his work.