

Workplace DiVeRsity: Valuing Differences

Satellite Conference and Live Webcast

Tuesday, September 23, 2008 • 3:00–4:00 p.m. (Central Time)

4:00-5:00 p.m. (Eastern) • 2:00-3:00 p.m. (Mountain) • 1:00-2:00 p.m. (Pacific)

What is diversity and why does it matter when we're at work? Let's start with the first question – what is diversity? According to Webster's dictionary, diversity means one of two things -- one, differing from one another and two, composed of distinct or unlike elements or qualities. Diversity matters on the job, because we're all different but we still have to learn to work together to accomplish our goals.

Often times people think diversity has something to do with ethnicity. While that's certainly part of it, there are other dimensions to it, for instance, profession, education, parental status, geographical location, culture and religion. Those factors all influence a person's identities and perspectives. While you may not always understand those diverse characteristic traits, they do exist, and chances are someone doesn't understand yours either.

According to a study by Cornell University, as a concept, diversity is considered to be inclusive of everyone. It's about learning from and respecting others who are not the same and about creating a workplace environment that encourages learning from others to capture a diverse perspective. In many ways, diversity initiatives complement non-discrimination compliance programs by creating an environment for making differences work.

So, how do you make diversity work? How do you go about asking questions and learning more about the person at the desk next to you? What's the proper way to acknowledge and respect a co-worker's diverse cultural heritage? This program will hopefully provide you with some insight on how to break the barriers and learn to value our diverse differences.

Objectives:

1. Define diversity.
2. Understand how to be sensitive to diverse cultures in the workplace.
3. Recognize barriers to sensitivity in the workplace.

Upcoming Programs

ADPH Statewide Staff Meeting
Thursday, October 2, 2008
3:00–4:00 p.m. Central Time

Faculty:

Faculty To Be Announced

Saving The Teenage Driver
Tuesday, October 7, 2008
11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Central Time

**In Collaboration With: The Alabama Department of Public Health's Office of Human Resources,
The Division of Risk Managements State Employee Assistance Program.**

Satellite Conference and Webcast Details:

Target Audience: ADPH staff

Registration: www.adph.org/alphntn

Cost: There is no cost to view.

CEUs Approved: None

Satellite Technical Information: Ku & C bands.

Webcast Information: Register at www.adph.org/alphntn. To view the webcast, you need RealPlayer or Windows Media Player. Test your computer before the day of the program from the "test connection" link at www.adph.org/alphntn. On the day of the program, go to www.adph.org/alphntn. Click on the "view webcast" link.

Conference Materials: Posted on our website approximately one week before the program.

Questions For Faculty: If you have questions that you want addressed during the conference, you may fax or email those questions and a response will be given during the program.

Email: alphntnquestions@adph.state.al.us or fax: 334.206.5640.

Conference Detail Questions: If you have questions about any of these conference details, call 334.206.5618 or email: alphntn@adph.state.al.us