Strategies of creating inclusive teaching environments in online courses in the economics and finance curriculum

Sylwia E Starnawska, MBA, Ph.D.

SUNY Empire State College

DEI STRATEGIES IN LITERATURE & EDUCATION

- It is essential for faculty to humanize teaching by focusing on students and not just course content to promote inclusive classroom environments (Hengestig et al., 2023).
- Instructors are most likely to include content about course expectations and least likely to include content about creating positive classroom climate in their course syllabi (Gin et al., 2021).
- “Respect is a huge factor in creating a more inclusive classroom.” Teaching students to discover and support each others’ areas of strength goes a long way to creating inclusivity. Collaboration and teamwork are critical pieces here, as well. (Rust, 2019)
- “Developing skills and attitudes that bridge cultural differences such as empathy, flexibility, listening without judgement, appreciation for multiple cultural perspectives and cross-cultural communication is crucial.” (Gin et al., 2021). Creating an inclusive environment and building inclusive classroom require ongoing effort, reflection and personal humility.” (Hendru-Andrews, 2015)
- It is critical that professors establish and maintain a multiculturally aware and inclusive course, especially with asynchronous courses. The initial greeting and welcome to class creates a strong and solid foundation, especially with a description where one is “rooted”. Faculty should be aware of the importance of multiculturalism to incorporate appropriate language into class, so the awareness of up-to-date language will promote an inclusive classroom and encourage students in class to use that same language while incorporating present-day issues. Microaggressions require education by promoting empathy and differentiating between the students’ intent and the impact of their statements. Regardless of the course subject, cultural knowledge, awareness, and skills should and can be incorporated into course materials (Maslowski, 2020).

REFERENCES

- ACUE’s Inclusive Teaching Toolkit: https://acue.org/inclusive-teaching-practices-toolkit/