American Association of University Women

Fantastic Revolutions and Where to Find Them

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Learning Objectives

- Participants will be able to identify challenges in their communities that they want to improve and learn where to start when creating an inclusive movement.
- Participants will be able to identify and acknowledge their biases to become better allies.
- Participants will be able to see their failures as stepping stones to reach their goals.
Presenter Background

- Originating from Wellsville, NY
- SUNY Brockport Senior (Class of 2018)
- Double major in Psychology and Women & Gender Studies, minor in African/African American Studies
- President of the American Association of University Women
  - AAUW’s mission is to empower people of all identities, with a primary interest in gender equity, through education and advocacy.
Starting a Revolution

- No matter how big or small, revolution comes from within you. What do you care about?
- Once you’ve picked something, get talking! This:
  - Creates deliberative dialogue
  - Introduces new ideas
  - Helps pinpoint goals
  - Rallies the troops
A Personal Revolution

- The foundation of a revolution comes from within you, but you are also an instrument of change!
- Are you part of the problem? Reflect on how your actions affect the cause you’re trying to create change within!
- Implicit Biases- We all have them!
  - “‘Implicit Biases’ refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding and decisions in an unconscious manner.” -Kirwan Institute, Ohio State University
  - Awareness of your biases is a huge step in overcoming them. You can’t fix something if you don’t know it exists!
  - Awareness of biases in general allows you to help other people overcome their own biases.
Funding a Revolution

- Not all revolutionary acts require funding (though most will require paperwork)! For example:
  - Marches/protests
  - Tabling
  - Petitioning

- For those that do require funding, some sources you may consider are:
  - Pure, unadulterated fundraising
    - Can drives, bake sales, carwashes.. The whole nine yards!
  - Grants
    - Campus Action Project Grant
Be the Revolution Month
Programming a Revolution

- Types of programming:
  - Tabling
  - Workshops
  - Lectures
  - Movie screenings
  - Art series (photography, etc.)
  - Social Media Campaigns
  - Service

- Keep in mind the population you’re trying to reach when deciding what works best for your goals!
Diversifying the Revolution

- Who’s at the table?
  - Revolution needs to be intersectional - missing even one perspective can have a negative impact on a community that you may not have considered during your planning!
  - Bringing people of different identities to the table also allows them to speak for themselves, rather than relying on someone else to tell their stories!

- Being a better ally:
  - Listen.
  - Don’t make it about you!
  - You don’t get to take a break.
  - Educate yourself constantly.
  - Stay open to criticism from the group you’re allied with - we’re all learning!
Learning from Failure

- You will never be successful 100% of the time- but every effort you make is valid and valuable!
- Be the Revolution Month had several events where we didn’t reach the population we aimed to- but that’s okay!
- Learn from it:
  - What went wrong?
  - What can you change in the future?
  - Should you be changing the way you measure success?
The Revolution Doesn’t End with You

- How can we continue the conversation about these issues after the programming is over?
  - Social media is gratifying- we share a post and feel like we did our part. But we didn’t!
  - Continue the conversation through deliberative dialogue.
  - Continue to demand answers from yourself, your peers, and your policy makers.
  - Continue to educate yourself and stay up to date on the issues

- The Revolution never rests... but you should. Do some self care. Just don’t sleep on it!
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