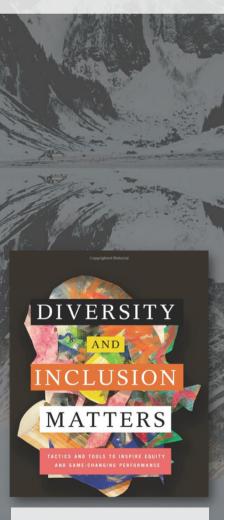


KAHILLA'S STEP UP, REACH DOWN & INNOVATE FORUM with Jason Thompson

VP, DEI for Western Governors University Co-Founder & Senior DEI Advisor of CAPE Inclusion



READ JASON'S BOOK

THE INTERSECTION OF DEI & HEALTH & WELL-BEING

The Challenge of DE&I:

DE&I is often dealt with in episodes: It happened, we dealt with it, now it's done.

To create sustainable impact, diversity programs need to be built to deal with the system

Example: You can fix that 20% of women are underpaid, but there will still be an organizational gap because when you look at the annual review process, it is inherently biased.

- Women get a lower raise
- Women's behavior is perceived as less than and held against them
- The longitudinal effect of bias is why we have this pay gap. It's systemic, not an episode.

Surveys don't work.

- Because surveys are supposed to be anonymous, the information can't be used to maintain confidentiality
- Survey results are based on majority rule, so problems often get ignored when they are voiced by the minority
- The reality is that if you're one of the few, you're at higher risk of leaving than being totally transparent in a survey
- What to do instead:
 - Look at the data for turnover, promotions, and terminations. Where are the gaps in the annual review process, salaries, etc?
 - Hold leaders accountable to the things they can actually control (e.g. Who gets hired and promoted vs. overall diversity)

How companies can support their diverse talent and set them up for success:

- Rather than mandatory, one-time trainings, host training sessions regularly
- Regular training signal to employees what's important to the organizational culture
- Measure success by changed behavior vs. whether or not someone attends a training
- Create spaces where it's safe to discuss and call out behaviors that don't align with the company's desired culture and values
- Create spaces for repetition where people can practice

Address a broad range of diversity

- Integrate definitions that affect all forms of diversity: bias, privilege, microaggressions
- Simplify concepts and use those as the basis of what you want people to do:
 - Can you see bias, privilege, or microaggressions in this process?