

## Inclusive Leadership (continued)

to be aware of your leadership tendencies so that you can make adjustments the next time around.

### Take It All In

And, last, but definitely not least, inclusive leadership requires more heightened awareness of different cultures, religions, lifestyles, and more. Chances are that your members come from a variety of different backgrounds that have influenced their values, personalities, and ways of interacting with others. Keep this thought foremost in your mind as you work with this interesting bunch of peer leaders. These differences may produce disagreements at times, yet you

know that your entire group benefits from the riches of difference! And you'll all be better able to serve the diverse needs of your campus constituents as a result.

Inclusive leaders have the great honor of working with diverse students and appreciating the differences they bring to the organizational table. Everyone is at such different stages and growth can occur through reflection and conversation. As your group members observe you making efforts to include others, they are much more likely to follow your lead. And that domino effect is what inclusive leadership is all about.

### The Language of Inclusion

The language of inclusion may involve things such as:

- ▲ Not assuming that because someone has black skin that they are automatically "African American." Talk about the importance of finding out where people are from rather than applying a label.
- ▲ Not referring to all relationships as "he/she." Regularly referring to "significant others" or another term that feels comfortable to you is a means of recognizing heterosexual, homosexual and bisexual relationships.
- ▲ Never denouncing religious faith. Recognizing the central role that a higher being plays in many students' lives is just as important as supporting those who are not religious or are questioning.

And there's much more. List some other ways you can be more inclusive with your language here:

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