



DiversAbility Event Explores Inclusion for People with Disabilities

On Tuesday, October 11, 2022, the College to Career (C2C) Program hosted a college-wide DiversAbility Event, which was sponsored by Student Life and Activities and Student Equity and Achievement funds. Under the leadership of C2C Coordinator/Counselor **Jennifer Sanoh**, DiversAbility promoted an atmosphere where individuals could feel comfortable discussing and exploring questions about accessibility, equality, and inclusion for people with disabilities. The event was open to CoA faculty, staff and students. Musical entertainment was provided and catered breakfast as well as lunch options were served.

During the day, DiversAbility participants had the opportunity to choose among various sessions related to disability, accessibility, and inclusivity. Topics included: Inclusive Disability Employment; Promoting Self-Advocacy for College Students with Disabilities; Introduction to American Sign Language (ASL) Basics; and Informational Session for Prospective College to Career (C2C) Applicants.

Sessions lasted 50 minutes. At the beginning of each session, participants were presented with background information and questions. Next, following a structured process of brainstorming and information exchange, participants discussed related barriers and solutions.

Participants also “took over” the grassy quad behind the F-building to engage in hands-on activities of tie-dyeing tee-shirts and tote bags. The tie-dye event was very popular, attracting high turnout rates.

The term “DiversAbility” embraces the uniqueness and potential in every human being. DiversAbilities refer to physical, cognitive, developmental, learning, and/or neurological differences, or diversity, in ability levels. People experiencing medical conditions, genetic anomalies, physical and emotional trauma, social and emotional challenges, as well as differences in brain biology comprise the largest population of marginalized people in our world.

CoA support for the College to Career (C2C) programming has helped continue and expand C2C’s mission to provide the community, resources, and education that students with Intellectual Disabilities (ID) and/or Autism need to be successful.

Submitted by C2C Coordinator/Counselor Jennifer Sanoh