TCU Thinkathon: Strategies to Create an Inclusive Classroom Community

Sponsored by the School of Interdisciplinary Studies
In Partnership with the Koehler Center,
Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and Human Resources

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What is a Thinkathon?

Thinkathon model adapted from Dr. Sheri Parks of the Maryland Institute College of Art

It is a gathering of brilliant and compassionate people, from a wide variety of perspectives and expertise, coming together to think and talk, to push each of us out of our boxes to find rich and radical new approaches to tough problems

Thinkathon Purpose

One Day Collaboration

• Identify challenges presented by current and past conditions
• Brainstorm
• Wide variety of perspectives

Problem Solving Tool

• Different disciplines and perspectives
• Number of new action intervention ideas

Thinkathon Journey

Group defines number of problem areas of focus

Prompts with questions

Capture output visually and in text form

Thinkathon Table Topics

Inclusive Classroom Practice
Campus Wide Engagement
Inclusive Classroom Structures
Inclusive Identity

Building Community in the Classroom
Systemic Barriers to Inclusion

Engaging with Local Community
Students with Disabilities
Bilingual and Multilingual Students
Individuals of Color
Non-Traditional, Transfer, Graduate Students
Trans and Non-Binary Inclusion

Group Prompts

• Define the challenge and its context.
• What are the available resources?
• What are the obstacles?
• What is a feasible intervention?
• Who else needs to be involved?
• What are needed next steps?
• How does this begin to affect change?
Inclusive Excellence

- We all play a role in creating and sustaining inclusive excellence at TCU
- Sharing Thinkathon outputs with everyone so everyone can engage
- Opportunities to lead, partner, consult
- Continue to collect data as specific initiatives move forward

Next Steps

- Work collaboratively with DEI committee co-chairs and Dr. Sanders to synthesize outcomes from Thinkathon and DEI inventory to make a plan for moving forward collectively instead of in silos
- We will collaborate to share what we are doing, what we want to do, who is involved, and opportunities for everyone to play multiple roles moving forward