

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 at 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

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Thinkathon Purpose

One Day Collaboration	}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify challenges presented by current and past conditions • Brainstorm • Wide variety of perspectives
Problem Solving Tool	}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different disciplines and perspectives • Number of new action intervention ideas

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Thinkathon Journey

- Group defines number of problem areas of focus
- Prompts with questions
- Capture output visually and in text form

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Thinkathon Table Topics

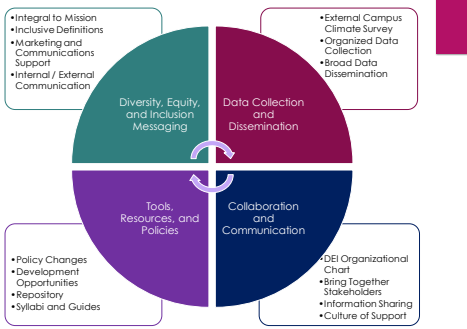
Inclusive Classroom Practices	Engaging with Local Community
Campus-Wide Engagement	Students with Disabilities
Inclusive Classroom Structures	Bilingual and Multilingual Students
Framing DEI	Individuals of Color
Building Community in the Classroom	Non-Traditional, Transfer, Graduate Students
Systemic Barriers to Inclusion	Trans and Non-Binary Inclusion

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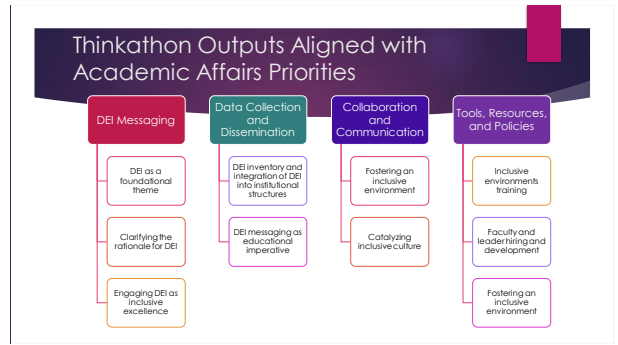
Group Prompts

- ▶ 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?

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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

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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

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Questions?

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