

Dumb Things Well-Intentioned People Say (Wednesday, October 20, 2010; 12:00-1:30 p.m.; EMU Board Room)

"I don't see color." "Some of my best friends are..." "I know how you feel." "It was only a joke."

Have you ever made any of these statements? We think just about everyone has—they seem to be part of our everyday conversations. Our intent is never to harm, yet the outcome can often be just that. In this workshop we will use "35 Dumb Things Well-Intended People Say" by Dr. Maura Cullen as the basis of our conversation about these and other statements and the impact they can have on others. **Text taken verbatim from cited source.**

35 Dumb Things Well-Intentioned People Say: Surprising Things We Say That Widen the Diversity Gap

by Dr. Maura Cullen

"Some of my best friends are..."

When people of color say, "It's not the same thing."

"I know exactly how you feel!"

When people of faith say, "Love the sinner, hate the sin."

"I don't think of you as..."

When white men say, "We are the ones who are being

"The same thing happens to me too."

discriminated against now!"

"It was only a joke! Don't take things so seriously."

Referring to older people as "cute."

"What do 'your' people think?"

Asking a transgender person, "What are you really?"

"What are you?" or "Where are you 'really' from?"

Are you a man or a woman?"

"I don't see color" or "I'm color blind."

Referring to the significant other, partner, or spouse of a

"You are so articulate."

same gender couple as their "friend."

"it is so much better than it used to be. Just be patient."

"Why do 'they' (fill in the blank) always have to sit

"You speak the language very well."

together? They are always ticking together."

Asking black people about their hair or hygiene.

"People just need to pick themselves up by their

Saying to gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender people,

bootstraps."

"What you do in the privacy of your own bedroom is
your business."

"People with disabilities are courageous."

"Yes, but you're a 'good' one."

"That's so gay/queer" or "That's so retarded."

"You have such a pretty face."

"I don't see difference. We're all part of the same race,
the human race."

"I never owned slaves."

"I don't care if you are pink, purple, or orange, I treat all
people the same."

"If you are going to live in this country, learn to speak the
language!"

Asking a transgender person, "Have you had the
operation?"

"She/he is a good person. She/he didn't mean anything
by it."

Saying to a Jewish person, "You are so lucky to have
your 'Christmas' spread out over a week!"

"When I've said the same thing to other people like you,
they didn't mind."

Here is another book on 'political correctness'."

Calling women "Girls, Honey, Sweetie Pie" or other
familiar terms.