

## The Diversity Trap: Success Strategies and Pitfalls to Avoid with D&I Initiatives

## April 19, 2013





### Today's Agenda

- About The TCS Group, Inc.
- The Evolution of Diversity & Inclusion
- Success Strategies
- Pitfalls to Avoid
- Q&A



The TCS Group, Inc. provides customized HR and diversity and inclusion (D&I) solutions to clients. We have three focus areas.



Tamika Curry Smith, TCS Group President, formerly led the D&I organizations at Target Corporation and Deloitte Consulting



Our experience spans across many well-known organizations.





## Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) programs evolved from and have built on EEO and AA concepts.

| Strategic<br>Imperative         | Focus   | Desired<br>Outcome   |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Equal Employment<br>Opportunity | Prevent discrimination  | Compliance and equal treatment   |  |
| Mandatory Affirmative<br>Action | Correct effects of past discrimination  | Compliance and action-<br>oriented programs that lead to<br>improved representation                    |  |
| Diversity                       | Build a diverse<br>organization and develop<br>strong internal and<br>external partnerships         | Diversity at all levels and long-<br>lasting connections with<br>internal and external<br>stakeholders |  |
| Inclusion                       | Create an environment<br>that appreciates and<br>leverages differences to<br>drive business results | Innovative, performance-based culture and competitive business advantage                               |  |



Diversity & Inclusion clearly has become more of a focus in the workplace.

**Out of 500 companies surveyed:** 

- Diversity initiatives have been in place for a median of <u>6</u> years
- Median length of service for the Diversityfocused role is <u>2.5</u> years

Source: The Conference Board



In recent years, Diversity & Inclusion has made a more holistic shift in most organizations.





## So...How do HR/EEO/AA professionals navigate this important and evolving D&I space?





## Success Strategy #1: Know Your Stuff





#### **Definitions**

• Webster's Dictionary – variety; heterogeneity; difference

# DIVERSITY

 Diversity is about <u>PEOPLE</u> themselves...their differences, similarities, and unique characteristics as groups and individuals



#### **Definitions**

• Webster's Dictionary – being considered along with other people, things, etc. as part of a group, set, etc.

# INCLUSION

 Inclusion is about the extent to which people 1) have the <u>OPPORTUNITY</u> to and 2) <u>FEEL WELCOME</u> to fully be a part of and contribute to an organization





#### **Know Your Stuff**



#### **D&I – Core Strategic Components**



- External Recruiting
  - ✓ Internships
  - ✓ Campus
  - ✓ Experienced
  - ✓ Executive
- Internal Moves / Promotions
- Destination / Succession Planning

#### Workplace

- Training & Development
- Leadership
- Retention
- Culture
- Internal Communications

#### Marketplace

- Multicultural Marketing
- Multicultural Merchandising
- Supplier Diversity
- Community Relations
- External Messaging



### **D&I – DiversityInc's Approach**



- Executive accountability
- **Board-of-Director** • demographics
- Work force initiatives
- Work force metrics
- Work/life benefits

- affinity groups, mentoring, etc.)
- External factors (community efforts, website, diversity branding, etc.)
- Audits and ٠ third-party certification
- Mandates in **RFPs**
- Supplier mentoring and assistance



#### **Resources**

- Use your relationships and leverage your NETWORK to learn about what works and what doesn't
- Leverage **EXISTING** D&I resources
  - > SHRM
  - The Conference Board
  - DiversityInc.com
  - DiversityBestPractices.com
  - DiversityExecutive.com
  - DiversityBusiness.com



#### **Resources**

- Do BENCHMARKING
  - "Best in Class" companies
  - Industry competitors
- Use Google!



# Success Strategy #2: Turn on the Light







#### <u>Activity – Pictures Exercise</u>

 Force rank the people 1-5 based on your likelihood to refer and/or hire him / her for a management position (1 = most likely; 5 = least likely)





What is BIAS?

- A tendency or preference towards a particular perspective, ideology or result
- Interferes with the ability to be impartial, unprejudiced, or objective

Cognitive biases are common to ALL human beings



## SIMILARITY-ATTRACTION EFFECT

• A tendency to stick with people who are like yourself and avoid those who are different



Humans have a natural tendency to search for commonalities in others

Source: Personality and Social Psychology Review



The SIMILARITY-ATTRACTION EFFECT can have a devastating impact on our efforts to recruit, build, and develop diverse teams



- People tend to recruit candidates just like them
- Candidate assessments are based on subconscious comfort level and "fit"
- Candidates that are "different" face an uphill battle

Teams / Talent Development

- People "like" working with those who are similar, have the same work style, etc.
- Employees that are "different" fall off the radar
- This impacts who gets development opportunities, promotions, etc.



## **IN-GROUP BIAS**

• The tendency for people to give preferential treatment to others they perceive to be members of their own group



The inverse is true for out-group members

Source: Personality and Social Psychology Review



## IN-GROUP BIAS adversely affects our ability to drive inclusion on our teams

#### **In-Group Members**

- Viewed and labeled positively
- Seen as diverse, unique individuals
- Given the benefit of the doubt and treated accordingly

#### **Out-Group Members**

- Viewed negatively and labeled stereotypically
- Lumped together and not seen as individuals
- Given little room for error and treated accordingly

#### Turnover among out-group members is typically higher as a result

Source: Personality and Social Psychology Review



## **Success Strategy #3: Show Them the Money**





1. Women currently hold 40% of all jobs in the United States.

False – Women currently hold 47% of all jobs ad account for about a quarter of the current GDP.

2. Over 30 million people in the US population have a disability.

True – 36.3 million people have a disability, which equates to roughly 12% of the US population.

3. A majority of tomorrow's workforce will consist of non-White males.

False – 70% of current workforce entrants are women and people of color. This represents the workforce of tomorrow.

Sources: DiversityInc's Business Case for Diversity, Selig Center for Economic Growth, Center for American Progress



4. How many different generations do you believe are currently in the workforce and therefore in your company's candidate pool?

4

5. Name those generations.

Traditionalists (<1946) Gen-Xers (1965 -1980) Baby Boomers (1946-1964) Millennials (1981-1994)

6. People of color own more than 20% of all US businesses.

True – People of color own 22% of all US businesses.

Sources: DiversityInc's Business Case for Diversity, Selig Center for Economic Growth



7. There are \_\_\_\_\_ million veterans in the US.

33 million

8. The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) community is among the most loyal group of consumers and their buying power is estimated at nearly \$800 billion.

True – 71% of all GLBT adults reported that they would be very or somewhat likely to remain loyal to a brand they believed to be very friendly and supportive to the GLBT community – even when less friendly companies may offer lower prices or be more convenient.

Source: Dept of Veterans Affairs, Witeck Communications



9. People of color are expected to make up more than 50% of the US population by 2050.

False – People of color will make up more than 50% of the US population by 2042.

10. Despite the gains women have made in education and the workplace, men still earn more advanced degrees than women.

False – The number of American women earning advanced degrees has now surpassed the number of men for the first time in U.S. history. Additionally, women have earned more undergraduate degrees than men since 1996.

Source: US Census Bureau



#### **D&I Business Case – Population Statistics**

|                        | 2000  | 2012  | % of Total | % Growth |
|------------------------|-------|-------|------------|----------|
| Black                  | 35.7  | 41.4  | 13%        | 16%      |
| Hispanic               | 35.3  | 54.8  | 17%        | 55%      |
| Asian                  | 11.1  | 17.2  | 5%         | 55%      |
| Multiracial            | 3.9   | 7.9   | 3%         | 103%     |
| American Indian        | 2.7   | 4.0   | 1%         | 48%      |
| Total People of Color* | 88.7  | 125.3 |            |          |
| White                  | 228.1 | 245.4 | 78%        | 8%       |

\*Note: Hispanic is an ethnicity (not a racial category), so the "people of color" numbers technically are not cumulative.

Source: Selig Center for Economic Growth



#### **D&I Business Case – Buying Power Statistics**

|                        | 2   | 000            | 2012         | % of Total | % Growth |
|------------------------|-----|----------------|--------------|------------|----------|
| Black                  | \$  | 600            | \$<br>1,038  | 9%         | 73%      |
| Hispanic               | \$  | 488            | \$<br>1,179  | 10%        | 142%     |
| Asian                  | \$  | 273            | \$<br>718    | 6%         | 164%     |
| Multiracial            | \$  | 59             | \$<br>155    | 1%         | 165%     |
| American Indian        | \$  | 40             | \$<br>103    | 1%         | 156%     |
| Total People of Color* | \$1 | L <b>,</b> 459 | \$<br>3,193  |            |          |
| White                  | \$6 | 5,353          | \$<br>10,177 | 83%        | 60%      |

\*Note: Hispanic is an ethnicity (not a racial category), so the "people of color" numbers technically are not cumulative.

Source: Selig Center for Economic Growth



### **D&I Business Case – Supplier Diversity**

• Business ownership among diverse groups is on the rise



• Diverse businesses are growing faster as well



World class companies spend 13% of their Tier 1 spend with minority-owned and 11% with women-owned business enterprises.

Source: US Census Bureau, Witeck Communications



#### **D&I Business Case – The Link to Innovation**

- The Medici Effect
  - A diverse team or an individual with a diverse background = exponential increase of unique ideas
  - Diversity in teams allows different viewpoints, approaches, and frames of mind to emerge

Leveraging the diversity of your employees, community partners, and suppliers provides a foundation for innovation

Source: The Medici Effect by Frans Johansson



#### **D&I Business Case – The Link to Engagement**

- Employees with the highest level of engagement
  - Perform 20% better
  - Are 43% more productive
  - Are 87% less likely to leave the organization
- Companies with strong diversity management initiatives have higher engagement among traditionally underrepresented groups and employees overall



### **D&I Business Case – The Link to Performance**

- In recent studies, companies that leveraged the diversity of their people and promoted a culture of inclusion:
  - Improved customer satisfaction by 39%
  - Increased productivity by 22%
  - Raised profitability by 27%
  - Lowered turnover by 22%
  - Also showed improvements in stock price / market valuation and employee growth

Source: Gallup Workplace Studies



#### **D&I Business Case – The Link to Competitive Advantage**

- The greater a company's gender and racial diversity, the better its competitive position within its industry
- For every percent increase in racial diversity, there is a 9% increase in the number of customers a company has
  - Gender diversity accounts for a 3% increase in customers
- Racial diversity was found to be a better predictor of company revenue and sales numbers than company size, company age, or the number of employees working at any given location



### **D&I Business Case – The Link to Shareholder Return**

- Superior diversity management does lead to bottom line results and shareholder return
  - Over a 10-year period, when calculated as a stock index, the publicly traded companies in the DiversityInc Top 50 outperformed:
    - NASDAQ by 28.2%
    - S&P 500 by 24.8%
    - DJIA by 22.4%

Source: DiversityInc


## Success Strategy #4: Measure Up





All of your D&I efforts must be **TRACKABLE** and **MEASURABLE** so you can gauge their effectiveness.

- You get what you measure...AND...What gets measured gets done!
- Promotes a culture of accountability
- Allows you to highlight wins and notice additional areas of opportunity

Utilize a two-fold metrics strategy that examines both activity and results



Activity metrics can help show initial progress and bridge the gap until you have data on more concrete metrics.

### **Examples of Activity Metrics**

#### Workforce

- Campuses
- Recruiting Events
- Professional Organizations
- Applicants
- Interviews
- Website Traffic
- Online Reputation

#### Workplace

- Training Courses
- Training Participation
- Engagement Survey
  Participation
- Communication Mediums
- Internal Communications

#### Marketplace

- Bilingual Products
- Bilingual Signage / Communication
- Supplier Base
- Community Partners
- Volunteer Hours
- Board Participation



# Outcome metrics often require changes to your intake mechanisms, data sources, and IT systems.

### **Examples of Outcome Metrics**

#### Workforce

- Diverse slates
- Yield rate
- Acceptance rate
- Intern, campus, professional, and executive hires
- Promotions

#### Workplace

- Training Evaluation Scores
- Engagement Survey Feedback and Trends
- Voluntary and Involuntary Turnover
- Communication Effectiveness

#### Marketplace

- Mind Share
- Market Share
- Marketing Spend
- Supplier Diversity
  Spend
- Community Giving Trends
- External Advertising



## Pitfall #1: Not Laying the Foundation





Companies that build successful D&I initiatives create an *INFRASTRUCTURE* to support them.

Examples of *INFRASTRUCTURE* 

- Dedicated D&I staff
- Strong involvement from HR and the Executive Team
- Diversity Councils
- Employee Resource Groups



Successful companies also put their money where their mouth is by *FUNDING* their D&I efforts.

**Out of 500 companies surveyed:** 

- The median diversity budget was <u>\$500,000</u>
  <u>\$750,000</u>
- Budgets generally ranged from under \$50,000 to the \$3-6 million range.

Source: The Conference Board



So, how do you get the **RESOURCES / INFRASTRUCTURE** and **BUDGET** you need to drive your D&I initiatives?

Effectively use the data at your fingertips

- Business Case
- Benchmarking
- Industry Competitors

Competition is a powerful motivator!



## Pitfall #2: Not Sharing the Love





It is often unclear who "owns" D&I initiatives in many companies. And no matter where it resides, that department can't "make it happen" alone.

### Advocate for / speak of D&I as a CORE VALUE

- Classifying it as a corporate value is really where it belongs
- That means:
  - It is part of who you are and how you work
  - > It is expected of *EVERYONE*



In companies with the most successful D&I programs, the responsibility is shared by everyone, starting at the top.

**Out of 500 companies surveyed:** 

 In <u>60%</u> of the companies, the main advocates for D&I are the CEO and top management

The impetus and tone for D&I must emanate from the most senior ranks of the organization

Source: SHRM



So, how do you **SHARE THE LOVE** and ensure you're not going it alone?

# INTEGRATION!!!

- D&I must be integrated into initiatives, policies, and practices across the company
- Form multi-disciplinary, cross-functional committees to ensure integration happens



## Pitfall #3: Not Communicating Enough





Since it typically takes time for your D&I efforts to produce results, you may not feel like you have much to share in the interim, **BUT YOU DO!** 

- Create quick wins, short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals and then COMMUNICATE the accomplishments along the way
- Discuss your *INCREMENTAL* progress so people see the momentum you're building

Regular, ongoing communication positions your efforts as credible and successful



So, how do you make sure your **COMMUNICATION** gets out and that you are heard?

- Create KEY MESSAGES for your colleagues to share with their stakeholders
- Leverage *CROSS-FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEES* to ensure the successes are known and shared across the company
- Utilize your department *LEADERSHIP* to discuss the achievements with top executives

Developing a multi-channel communication strategy is key

Summary



As HR/AA/EEO professionals, you can help your organization's D&I initiatives be a *HIT* by being...









### **Contact Us**

Tamika Curry Smith

President

- The TCS Group, Inc.
- 4727 East Bell Road
- Suite 45, Office #387
- Phoenix, AZ 85032-9339
- tamika@thetcsgroupinc.com

www.thetcsgroupinc.com

Thank You!