



HELLER FORWARD

SPRING COMMUNITY DAY

Highlights from Participant Surveys

Pre-Event Survey Data and Quotes

73%

Say power and privilege are not discussed often in their classes.

58%

Had some knowledge about diversity, inclusion, power, and privilege, but...

13%

...say they did not have very much knowledge of these topics.

What do you hope to learn from today?

“Today, I hope to leave with more confidence in my ability to discuss these topics with my peers and professors.”

“Better sense of the collective goals and values of our community and roadmap for concrete actions we can take.”

“How to be a better accomplice. Ways to improve Heller community. How to demand diversity, inclusion, power, and privilege work from professors.”

“I hope to have a good sense of positive ways to move forward in challenging systems of oppression and how to better include marginalized communities.”

Post-Event Survey Data and Quotes

60%

Learned a lot about issues of diversity, inclusion, power, and privilege.

92%

Believe that Heller faculty and staff should better incorporate the ideas learned from Community Day into their curriculum.

Describe your experience at Community Day

“Love that my peers led it. I want it to expand to a conference potentially. Also, this is closer to what I expected for orientation.”

“I hope that there are more workshops/days that have these issues as a focus and that they can be in smaller groups. Perhaps a series that folks sign up for, work through over a semester”

“I think it would be helpful to have more time/days to discuss these issues.”

The Heller School held a Community Day on January 12, 2016, just one day before the start of the spring semester. A group of 15 Heller students planned and coordinated Community Day, volunteering their time over winter break to provide Heller students with an informative, interactive and beneficial experience. Operating under the name “Heller Forward,” these students came together with the goal of furthering the discussion at Heller about diversity and the concepts of power and privilege experienced both inside and outside the classroom.

Community Day was a day for Heller students, faculty and staff to participate in a learning and growing experience. Students began the day with an icebreaker that involved all 90 attendees. Then, students split into small groups and Community Day planners facilitated discussions on what power and privilege look like, the ways in which they affect us and how we can fight against these oppressive systems. In the afternoon, Heller PhD student Awo Osei-Anto spoke to students about her own experiences with power and privilege in the classroom and in the workplace. At the end of the day, students chose between two workshops. The first was an ally training, facilitated by the local Boston grassroots organization White People Challenging Racism (WPCR). The second option was a panel discussion led by Heller students, many from international backgrounds, to hear about their experiences with power and privilege in the U.S. and in other countries.

Students are continuing to work together to turn Heller Forward into a community-building organization, meant to bridge the gaps between degree programs, students, faculty and staff to ensure that Heller continues to strive for inclusivity and equality in all aspects.