Whither Goest Civility: Civility in Society and Higher Education

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Whither Goest Civility: Civility In Society And Higher Education

Civility costs nothing and buys everything
— Lady Mary Wortley Montagu

The perceived value and existence of civility has changed much since Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (1689–1762) made this statement. We need only look to the recent political campaigns to see the extensive use of negative and insulting sound bites meant to mislead the electorate and damage the opposing candidates. The discussion will focus on observations about, and credible reasons for, the current lack of civility in society at large and in academia, as well as ways to encourage a more civil environment.

Speakers

Robert Hill, Ed.D., is a program professor of higher education leadership at the Abraham S. Fischler School of Education. He has been the co-principal investigator on a National Science Foundation Grant and has also been awarded faculty research grants at two private universities, including NSU. Teaching both online and hybrid doctoral courses since 2006, Hill specializes in student affairs-related issues and regularly teaches courses entitled The Dynamics of Student Services, Contemporary Challenges in Higher Education Leadership, and Trends and Issues. He is a member of the Association for the Study of Higher Education; has presented at regional and national conferences; and has published articles on the professoriate, teaching online, and meeting the needs of student veterans on campus.

Toran Hanson, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in conflict analysis and resolution at the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences. He worked as a research associate for the Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking, as well as the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs. Hanson was a Peace Corps volunteer in Guinea, West Africa, and a program director for the Fraser Youth Supervision Program in British Columbia, Canada. He has written a variety of articles in peer-reviewed journals on the topics of social movements, social networks, social capital, and conflict transformation. Additionally, he has written a book set to be released in January 2013, entitled The Generalist Approach to Conflict Resolution.