

Day of Understanding

As the expectations for student achievement increase and the support for schools decreases, teachers and students are looking for help! Keith Hawkins presents a program that will help establish a positive culture, improve your school climate, close the student achievement gap, and give students a place to help each other.

We have a society that tells our children to believe everything they see on television and believe every song they hear. We have magazines and televisions telling our children what to be and why, so now our young girls want to look like the next big Hollywood star and our young men want to be like professional athletes. Parents go to work 50 to 60 hours a week so they can provide all the things they didn't have as a kid! What this has done is taken us away from the kitchen tables in America. **Students now come to school not knowing who they really are and what they really represent. They are stressed out from dealing with issues like single-parent homes, divorce, abuse, and financial problems.** When a student is dealing with these issues, they need their school environment to be a consistent place in which they feel safe and supported. The real tragedy is when a student goes to a school that doesn't have the climate that allows him or her to be successful. If your school climate is not where you want it because of **overcrowding, racial tensions, cliques, bullying, teasing, mean girls, apathy, segregation, etc.,** you need help with creating a culture that supports the school climate you desire.

Day of Understanding will create an environment that will give students a chance to share how they feel and why they feel that way. Each student will have a chance to hear and learn about each other so that they can realize that we are in this together and we can help each other. When this happens a positive culture is established.

Culture: School culture is affected by such things as bullying, fighting, no or low expectations, separatism, apathy, and racial tension. This is why **Day of Understanding** concentrates on creating an environment that can open up doors to the possibilities of getting past these things we call FEAR (False, Evidence, Appearing, Real.) Fear has created a culture in high schools where people feel they are all alone at the end of the day. We want to create a culture that is more than just the individual parts, a relationship that is healthy because of the strength of the climate that supports the school and everyone in it.

Climate: If we can create a healthy school climate, students can thrive! A

great school climate is when students feel safe, they feel respected, and they feel people are there because they want to help them. Teachers are honored and respected! Student achievements in sports, academics, and other school activities are recognized and celebrated. A healthy climate is one in which any student can find their place on campus, and they are supported to strive for excellence.

Goal: Our goal is to help each person in your school find a connection so they can find value in education and their whole school experience. If there's no connection, there's no value. If there's no value, there's no respect. Last year almost one third of our high school students dropped out of school, and not because they couldn't do the work! They dropped out because they didn't see the value in the work that they were doing.

Objective: Our objective is to create an environment where students can talk about things that really matter to them. We feel if students talk about things that matter in an intimate setting, they will find that they are more alike than different. When students see this, they then see the connection they have with one another. When this becomes the culture, students thrive in and out of the classroom.

Format for Day of Understanding

One or two all-school DU assemblies: Some schools are small enough that you only need one assembly, but we don't want to leave anybody out because they are too big, so we provide two assemblies if needed.

*Other awareness/diversity programs we have heard about do not provide an assembly for all students, they just take 100 or 150 students through the actual day. If they do provide an assembly, it's only one. We want to make sure that each and every person in the building has a chance to hear the message because each and every person helps create the culture and sustains the climate at your school.

Structure of our DU assemblies: Assemblies will be conducted in the mornings between 8:00 and 12:00. Assemblies are between 45min to 1 hr. in length. All students must be on one side of the gym (even if there are 1400 students). Staff should sit with the students during the assembly to model topics such as inclusiveness and unity. Everything else will be like your general assembly (quality microphone, small table, water for the speaker, etc.).

Our goals for our assemblies: We want students and teachers to walk away not changed but enhanced. So many times we want to change people,

and what ends up happening is they fight change. But if we can get people to think about how they see and treat people we can create some awareness. Most people don't need to change. They just need to tweak the little things so they can become better people, or "enhanced."

Our objective: We hope that people walk away wanting to a part of something greater than just their needs and wants. "GO HUMAN...Give what you need." *Keith Hawkins.*

Areas that will be covered in your assembly and during your DU Day:

Diversity- What is being different?

Tolerance-Why should we get along with other people?

Awareness- Who am I? Who are you?

Inclusiveness- Finding value in all people!

Character- The will to create change for the better, starting with myself!

Participants: Some schools want to provide this program as part of building and maintaining their school culture so they choose a grade level that attends each year. (For example: Every year our sophomores go through the program and the seniors lead.) Some schools choose to provide the program every few years. Those schools take 50 applicants from each grade level to participate. We suggest having students sign up to be involved. The program works best when you have fully invested students, which is why we suggest this method. Also, students will have to miss class so these students should be in good standing with their teachers and assignments.

Training: You need 30 to 50 upper classmen, and 1 to 2 involved adults. These students and staff members will be put into a leadership position for the DU and for the rest of the year. They will be the ambassadors of the DU so that the process continues though out the year. Each student will be trained so that they can facilitate a small group and trained to be an Ambassador of DU.

Facilitators: This is what your students will be during the DU Day because they will facilitate activities that will help your students connect with one another.

Ambassador: This is what we want your upper classmen to evolve into. A student who embodies what it means to stand up for the values of themselves and other people. We find that students who go through the training are most impacted. But an ambassador is someone who impacts other people by leading by example.

Adult Ambassadors: This person or persons will learn the skills necessary to keep the student ambassadors connected and to be an open line of communication with the students who attend the DU. We want to have an adult around to talk to students once the consultant leaves your school.

Topics that Adult and Student Ambassadors will learn about:

Communication

Closure

Leadership

Reflection

Structure: Right after the assembly student and adult ambassadors will proceed to the meeting area so that the consultant can start with teambuilding. The bulk of the training will be focused on the philosophy of "GO HUMAN". Why do we need to learn each person's story? The second part will focus on the activities that the ambassadors will be facilitating. The last part of the training will focus on how to keep the climate created by this program going.

The training will last three hours and will be done before school is out so that students can attend all their activities after school.

You will provide all materials for the training, which are on your supply list.

The Day of Understanding is a 4-hour program designed to take place from 8 am to 12 pm. If you would like to go longer than this the cost will increase. It is designed to not include lunch so the students can return to their regularly scheduled lunch and afternoon classes. In the case that students need extra support following the program the school can provide counselors on hand for these students.

Cost

Keith Hawkins Real Inspiration Speakers/consultant

\$2800 for two assemblies and training

\$2300 for each DU DAY afterwards (4 hour program)

Client will pay for all travel expenses and lodging on top of the program costs.