

Representation in Environmental Activism

Get-Educated x iSEE TED Talk



Sign in!

Society of Women Engineers

Dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion in STEM fields and strive to support women and gender minorities in engineering!



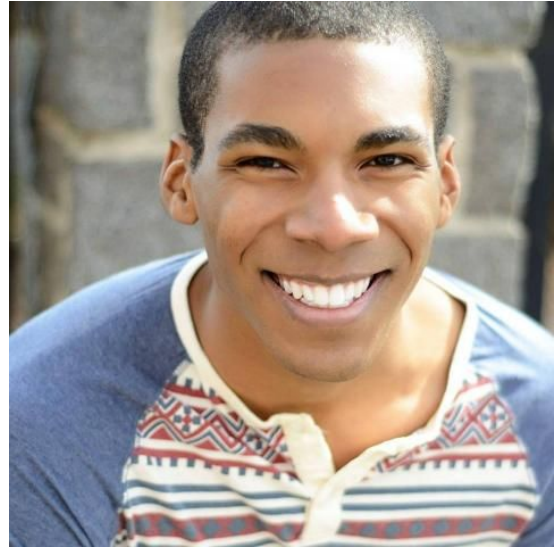
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE & GET-EDUCATED

- Support the SWE mission by highlighting the diversity of our community
 - Cultural events
 - Diversity Dinner
- Get-Educated hosts events to learn more about important topics, especially those related to diversity, and facilitates discussions on these issues



SPEAKER: CHARLES ORGBON

- Environmental activist, diversity/inclusion strategist, youth engagement expert
- Founder of Greening Forward: a youth-led environmental organization



HISTORY OF INJUSTICE



- Early on, only wealthy white males were invited to join in environmental institutions.
- At the end of the 19th century, wealthy white women were allowed to participate.
- 19th century environmentalists owned slaves and hired free people of color to assume the roles of servants, guides, porters, cooks.
- In the early twentieth century, working class whites created their own outdoor organizations.

REPRESENTATION TODAY



Transparency

Just 3.9% of organizations share their data on racial diversity



Ethnic Diversity

80% of board members and 85% of staff are white.



Gender Gap

More than 70% of the presidents and chairs of the board of organizations are male



OTHER FACETS OF DIVERSITY

Gender:

- Historical gender gap and exclusion of women
- Gap has largely closed today!!
- Differences in the social vs. scientific environmental movements

Data

H 1: "Are You an Environmentalist?"

Following results pulled from the crosstabulation:

Cross Tabulation Results:

- Yes, I definitely am an environmentalist
 - Women: 49.5%
 - Men: 50.5%
- Yes, I am Somewhat an environmentalist
 - Women: 50.6%
 - Men: 49.4%
- No, I am not an environmentalist
 - Women: 47.7%
 - Men: 52.3%

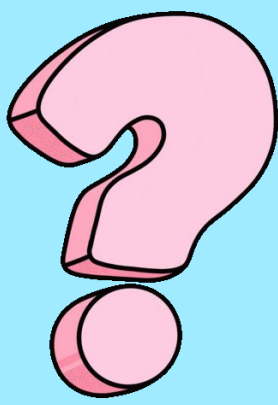
Socioeconomic Status:

- Unequal access to sustainable infrastructure, green spaces
- Local organizations prioritize these causes, serve their communities



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What kind of person do you think of when you think of environmental activists? Why do you think that is? Does the media play a role?
- How important do you think it is to have proportional representation in environmental groups?
- Are there any other groups that you think should be more represented in environmentalist spaces?
- Do you think young people in particular have a unique role in environmental activism?
- How can we raise awareness about environmental issues?



ACTION ITEMS

- Encourage environmental organizations to collect and publicly share data on diversity
- Increase financial support for groups that support inclusion within their ranks and in the community they serve
- Analyze the voices present and absent in discussions of environmentalism - be critical!

Organizations in our community!

- Environmental RSO's
- Champaign County Forest Preserves
- iSEE & SWE :)))



REFERENCES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziVHLtU5QOOQ>

<https://www.edf.org/blog/2018/10/31/stereotype-holding-back-environmental-movement>

<https://ensia.com/features/diversity/>

<https://www.asanet.org/race-diversity-and-transparency-environmental-organizations>

http://orgs.law.harvard.edu/els/files/2014/02/FullReport_Green2.0_FINALReducedSize.pdf

https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1126&context=cusrd_abstracts

