Ethics is a Component of Inclusion

A first step to being a person who is able to be inclusive is to take a look the topic of ethics in general. By definition ethics are moral principles that govern behavior or the conducting of an activity. Synonyms include moral code, rights and wrongs, ideals, standards of behavior, value system, virtues, dictates of conscience. Many consider ethics a requirement of human life because it is the means of deciding a cause of action. Consequently, we have a standard value by which all our actions are determined. Without, humans would act without any consistent direction, random, aimless.

Some consider a basic of one’s ethics is that for humans reason is the means of survival. Other basics include self- interest and harmony of interests. Further there are a number of specifics- self-reliance, independence, productivity, integrity, honesty, pride, benevolence. Rationality, and free will.

The Management Study Guide identifies the benefits of ethics for the individual, business, community, and society.

1. It satisfies basic human needs of being fair and honest.
2. It creates credibility as the individual or organization is seen as responsible. Further this credibility can spread to others that do not have a personal knowledge.
3. It unites people and leadership because there are common values that bring groups together.
4. Decision making is improved. With more people working together, there is an expanded knowledge to base a decision.
5. Gains are long term and secures our society as the behavior is constant.

For many of us we have been asked when preforming any action in our chosen profession to conduct ourselves following the dictates of our ethics policy. Additionally we may be asked to have continuing education to insure that we remain fully understanding those policies. Other professions may have ethic guidelines which are strong suggestions of how you should conduct yourself.

Additionally, we are encouraged to develop on own ethic code in all our interpersonal relationships. Our code asks others to respect our values, beliefs, interests, free will, and integrity. That being the case, it also asks to do the same. We are to be accepting of other points of view. This is inclusiveness, and it is so crucial. Truly, it can so easy and so hard.

Let’s look at the so easy first. All of us have lots of favorites and likes. I like bridge, another does not like cards at all. I prefer viewing the water, another wants to see the mountains. I am a Badger fan and my friend is a Hawkeye. I like butter pecan ice cream and my husband likes strawberry. In most circumstances these difference are lightly accepted. We each have preferences and so be it.

But it gets harder when values get involved. The issues seem so much more important and therefore our view is the one to be upheld. A line in the sand is drawn and crossed the other is in the wrong. Here is where our ethic code comes into play. We have agreed to accept another’s point of view. We practice what we do with the easy differences the same as with the hard. We are acknowledging to ourselves that there are other ways of looking at an issue. This helps us to see a broader picture of our world and our place in it. INCLUSION begins.

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