

Student

Prof Salisbury

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BGSU Diversity on Campus Interview

Diversity on campus is one of the many **major major** things that goes into choosing a university one wants to study at for many potential students. A great amount of students come from high schools where their diversity is lacking in different aspects, so many are looking to broaden their horizons by meeting people with different backgrounds than themselves. BGSU likes to promote the diversity we have here on campus through emails and advertisements usually seen by those considering BGSU. In this interview conducted, I wanted to take a current BGSU student and ask them about when they found out BGSU was supposedly “diverse”, what they noticed when they got here, **how** those compare and a little bit on their background as well. I chose to interview my roommate, Erika Katzenmayer; a junior here at Bowling Green State University studying social work. Erika and I tend to have different viewpoints on many social subjects as I lean more liberal and she leans more right, but we always keep the conversation civil and respectable which is why I wanted to **interview** her. I think it is important we take advantage of opportunities such as this interview to speak with others who do not always agree with us, I believe that is vital for growth in our **society**.

To begin the interview, I wanted to discover when she first heard about the diversity here on campus, and she answered with what I expected; through emails and advertisements as she was a senior in high school considering BGSU. The more important part, however was if the diversity she had heard about lived up to her expectations. When asked this question, Erika

Commented [LS1]: Mmm this is an interesting thought/question, --.

Commented [LS2]: Cool. Love this focus. I think you're on to something important here about how colleges/businesses market themselves as “diverse” or friendly to folks of different races, creeds, genders, sexualities, etc.

Commented [LS3]: Great! Always important to have a friend like this too. Glad to hear that you have this great relationship in your life, --.

Commented [LS4]: I wonder if you might hint at some of what you talked about here or what you took away from this conversation in your introduction. How could you start to get at the claim you're making or the takeaway you're providing here?

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answered, “ Once I got here I think campus pretty much held up to what I had heard. I mean, I guess I didn’t really think that much into it until now. Now that I think about it.. Picturing walking to class I see people of many backgrounds. I think it lived up to what I expected”.

Although this is a very on-the-surface representation of the colleges diversity, this observation is a valid starting point into looking at the diversity of students here at BGSU. This observation focuses on race, but as we know that is not all that makes a school diverse. Erika seemed to think

BGSU was doing very well with growing students of many backgrounds, which lead to me asking, “Do you think BGSU should keep working toward growing in percentages of minority groups or do you think we are in a good enough spot where we shouldn’t worry about it too much?”, leading to her response, “Well.. I don’t know.. I think we are doing really well in achieving a fairly diverse campus with students and faculty. But, also there is always room to grow. Becoming more diverse is a great thing and we should never stop growing, you know?”. This response showed her support of how well the university is doing with this matter, but also shows openness on always improving and growing which I support completely.

To understand responses we receive from interviewees, I think it is very important to learn a little about their backgrounds to make a connection if possible. Therefore, I asked Erika about her previous experience with diversity throughout high school. She explained to me, “Coming from a suburb of Chicago I would say we were pretty diverse. We had a large percentage of Hispanics and there were many African American students in my class. But.. I guess you could say we were majority white.. But Elk Grove High School wasn’t like all white kids. Des Plaines (the town I lived in 10 mins from my highschool) was a bit more diverse than my high school though, so different backgrounds is nothing new to me”. She explained to me, however, the people she surrounded herself with was a group of kids much like herself, so

Commented [LS5]: Nice. I like that you’re including info from the interview itself—here in the form of a quote—and analyzing/developing your thoughts about the response.

Commented [LS6]: True, good deduction and reflection here. I like that you’re thinking beyond the response of your interviewee and really thinking about what this means about students’ potential perspectives on diversity at BGSU.

Commented [LS7]: Nice. I like that you’re setting up this paragraph with where you went with the interview and how you think it provides important context to understanding Erika’s responses.

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coming to BGSU is much different as she has surrounded herself with many different people unlike herself. She explained that she would definitely recommend BGSU to other potential students looking for a diverse campus as she expects they would be pleased with what BG has to offer, and recommending BGSU to other people can only **help** us grow in that **field**.

Commented [LS8]: This is all great information, --. It seems like your write-up sort of drifts off/cuts off suddenly though. I wonder about how you might use a conclusion to bring together some of the ideas you're seeing in the interview and really provide a claim/takeaway about diversity issues at BG.

Commented [LS9]: Remember that when you conduct a personal interview you need to cite it just as you would an outside source. When we do interviews or conduct other primary research we still have to cite it.

Check out some of the resources available on Canvas and through Purdue OWL on citing personal interviews.