



A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute

History

The Anti-Defamation League's A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute was co-founded with WCVB-TV in Boston in 1985 as a grassroots campaign to increase public awareness of prejudice and discrimination and to mobilize residents to promote respect for individual differences. Since its inception, A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute has expanded to 26 cities in the United States and 11 countries overseas and has provided diversity-awareness programs and anti-bias training to more than 350,000 educators and 36 million students.

Mission

The mission of A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute is to mobilize citizens to challenge all forms of bigotry and to promote prejudice-free, inclusive schools and communities in which individual differences are respected and valued.

Training Programs

To accomplish its mission, the New England Region A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute offers A **CLASSROOM OF DIFFERENCE™** and **Miller Early Childhood** anti-bias training programs and resources to pre-K - 12 professionals in public, private and parochial schools. Each training program provides a safe environment in which participants identify, examine, and address personal and institutional prejudice and discrimination; activities designed to increase awareness of the value of diversity; and the opportunity to develop school-wide action plans. Since 1985, New England Region's A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute has trained more than 100,000 educators and other professionals.

In addition, A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute offers the **Peer Training Program** to middle and high school students in grades 7 - 12 who participate in 18 hours of training. During the training, students examine personal and institutional prejudice and discrimination, and learn to co-facilitate ongoing workshops for their peers to promote inter-group dialogue, understanding, and respect.

Special Projects

To advance its mission further, A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute provides educators and youth with the opportunity to participate in the following proactive educational programs:

- **Todd G. Patkin Urban Education Outreach Initiative** empowers middle school students in urban communities to increase their understanding of the causes of prejudice; gain a fuller appreciation of racial, ethnic, cultural, religious and other individual differences; and develop their leadership potential to serve as positive role models in their communities.
- **Youth Congress** is a day-long event that brings together middle and high school students and faculty to attend workshops and other activities to explore issues of prejudice; gain the knowledge and skills to address these issues; and identify action steps to promote prejudice-free, inclusive schools and communities.
- **Summer Institute** is designed to provide middle and high school educators with the skills and strategies to coordinate A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute's Peer Training Program in their schools.
- **Calendar Art Contest** invites K-12 students to help challenge prejudice and promote respect for diversity by creating artwork that illustrates the value of diversity and cultural pride.
- **Teacher Recognition Awards** honor educators for implementing a curriculum or program that fosters inter-group understanding and an appreciation for peoples' differences.
- **The Golden-Sugihara "Do the Right Thing" Awards** encourage young people in grades 9-12 to consider the implications and complications of making difficult moral choices in life. The awards are held in tribute to Irene and Jackson Golden, whose vision of social justice and activism led to the awards' creation, and to Mr. Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese Consul to Lithuania in 1940 who followed his conscience and, without permission from his government, saved the lives of 6,000 Jews during the Holocaust.

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