

What Makes Belonging Real at HSDM?

By Diversity and Inclusion Fellows

On May 19, 2017, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) welcomed Stephanie Khurana, a member of the President's Task Force on Inclusion and Belonging, to co-lead a workshop for HSDM students with Dr. Josephine Kim, Director of ODI.

Stephanie introduced the session by highlighting the Task Force's goals: "The aim of the President's Task Force on Inclusion and Belonging is to realize the full potential of each person within our community across Harvard's campuses, so that everyone can thrive. We strive to foster more open and inclusive communities, where people experience a true sense of belonging." She further explained that the goals of the outreach workshops are "to seek open dialogue and spark ideas to increase belonging, from what you can do tomorrow among fellow students, staff, faculty and academic personnel to support one another's growth, as well as to hear systems-level, organizational, and symbolic ideas."

The workshop was centered around the question "What can we do to increase our sense of belonging at Harvard on an individual, school, and institution-wide level?" and the following themes emerged:

- ***Greater presence of the University at HSDM.***
- ***Increased opportunities for student contributions.***
- ***More inclusive spaces on and off campus.***
- ***Bearing equal responsibility as students***

Stephanie concluded the workshop with the Task Force's trajectory by stating, "Our work is positioned at the University level and intended to complement school-specific initiatives. We are in the process of coalescing our learnings from this discovery phase and are turning to developing recommendations this coming fall. We plan to share our report with the President next Spring."

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion would like to thank Stephanie Khurana and the President's Task Force for their time and commitment. The hope is for this story to encourage everyone to take part in building a stronger sense of belonging at HSDM.

You can learn more about the President's Task Force [here](#), and your ideas can be contributed to the [Solutions Space](#), particularly if you were unable to attend a workshop.

