



Outreach Education and Training

Offerings for Colleges and Universities

IFYC Vision and Mission

There are millions of young people with different religious and philosophical perspectives interacting with increasing frequency around the world. This interaction tends toward either conflict or cooperation. While so many of these interactions tend toward conflict, IFYC is building a global movement of religious pluralism by shifting the public conversation about religion, equipping young people and their allies for action, and nurturing and networking emerging leaders.

IFYC Methodology

Rather than focusing on potentially divisive issues, IFYC's unique methodology builds relationships based on **shared values** like compassion, hospitality and mercy. Through **storytelling** and personal exchange, IFYC empowers diverse young people to develop relationships built on mutual respect. Finally, IFYC advocates living out shared values through collaborative projects, therefore taking **common action for the common good**.

Through this methodology, IFYC builds **religious pluralism**, a form of proactive cooperation that affirms individual identities while emphasizing that the well-being of each depends on the health of the whole.

Outreach Education and Training Program (OET)

The OET program equips young people and their allies to be interfaith leaders of religious pluralism. OET has worked on over one hundred college and university campuses, catering our 1-2 day visits to the strengths and needs of the particular community. Our strategy is ultimately threefold: *equip student leaders* to build sustainable interfaith service work on campus; catalyze *widespread interest* in the broader campus community; and *consult with key faculty and staff* to explore the development of religious pluralism on an institutional level. The following examples of OET's work on various campuses reflect this strategy:

Intensive work with student leaders and organizers:

- Extensive trainings on the theory and praxis of interfaith service work and the interfaith movement
- Dialogue facilitation trainings focusing on IFYC's unique methodology of storytelling, shared values and service-learning
- Guided brainstorming sessions around creative next steps for building sustainable interfaith service work on campus
- Designing and leading student retreats focused on leadership development
- Comprehensive skills-based training for long-term, successful interfaith organizing
- Connecting student leaders to the broader interfaith movement through IFYC's Bridge-builder's Network (bridge-builders.ning.com), an online community which resources, catalyzes and networks individuals who are committed to advocating for religious pluralism

Catalyzing involvement and interest beyond student leaders:

- Keynote and convocation speeches open to the entire campus and local community
- Guest lectures in classes relevant to interfaith work, social justice and religious pluralism
- Lunch discussions, roundtables and Q&A sessions with relevant student groups including religious groups, interfaith organizations, service learning groups, diversity groups, etc.
- Leading and facilitating interfaith service projects and dialogue

Consulting with key stakeholders to prioritize religious diversity on an institutional level:

- In-depth campus assessments to analyze the current strengths and weaknesses regarding religious pluralism at an institutional level
- Meetings to discuss religious pluralism with interested departments including religious life staff, diversity staff, service-learning staff, chaplains, dean of students, etc.
- Problem-solving with faculty and staff around particular campus issues such as: embracing religious diversity while being denominationally affiliated, embracing religious diversity as a secular or state institution, developing a new policy for observing religious holidays, responding to incidents of religious discrimination or religious hate crimes on campus and resolving tensions or conflict between campus religious groups
- Visioning and planning with faculty and staff around new programming, curricula and opportunities to build religious pluralism on campus

Menu of Trainings

IFYC carefully tailors our trainings to meet the needs of each campus community. A typical visit lasts one to two days, but trainers are eager to discuss your community's goals and adapt accordingly. Our menu of trainings includes:

- Religious Pluralism 101
- The Six Hallmarks of an Interfaith Bridge-builder
- Assessing Religious Pluralism in Your Campus
- What's Your Story?: Storytelling as a Tool of Interfaith Dialogue
- Common Action for the Common Good: How to Organize an Interfaith Service-Learning Event
- Dialogue Facilitation Training: Skills for a Shared Values Dialogue
- Tell It to the World: Skills for Using Media in Interfaith Work
- Strategizing Session: How to Develop Sustainable Religious Pluralism

Organizing an IFYC Training

As IFYC visits are coordinated based on the needs of the community, our training options vary accordingly. Training packages include IFYC resources as well as two hours follow-up phone support within two months of the visit. Communities are asked to cover the travel and accommodation expenses of the visiting trainer(s).

- One trainer for one day: \$1250
- Two trainers for one day: \$2000
- One trainer for two days: \$2500
- Two trainers for two days: \$4000

The OET Program also works with campuses on longer-term consultative projects. These projects often involve multiple training trips and significant support via telephone and email and are priced based on the parameters of the particular project.

For more information or to schedule a training, please contact Mary Ellen Giess at 312.573.8924 or maryellen@ifyc.org.

Please visit us at www.ifyc.org.