



SOURCE

Star of the Month December 2019

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How have you been involved with SOURCE in your time at JHU?

SOURCE is my one stop shop for finding volunteer opportunities (Tri-school day of service! Reading tutor!), attending amazing workshops, and turning ideas into realities (Me: “Let’s do a workshop on micro-aggressions.” Keilah at SOURCE: “Absolutely! When can we start?”). I also check out SOURCE’s Service Scoop each week for news, opportunities, and talks. Helps me to stay engaged with Baltimore City. ♥

How has your experience as a workshop participant impacted you personally?

Two years ago, I attended a student-led workshop on how to be an LGBTQ Upstander and Ally. I learned a lot about how we’ve been socialized to navigate and uphold, rather than to challenge, systems of oppression. Through the workshop, I learned words and actions that I can use daily to help create an inclusive environment for learning and beyond. It was personally impactful because I realized that each word and action, no matter its size, can contribute toward progress. For example, now I email to open discussions with survey makers whenever I see “Other” as an option for race, sexual orientation, or gender (e.g., What is your gender? Woman, man, or other?). It’s an easy way to create conversations about how “othering” creates out groups and a culture of differences rather than unity. I also found myself more empowered to engage with professors after attending lectures where gender and sex were mixed up or race was considered a biological construct. The workshops with SOURCE have helped me realize that every conversation can be an opportunity to move our collective consciousness toward justice.

In what ways do you feel trainings around critical consciousness development have impacted other students? What kind of conversations do you see happening either in academic settings or in online discussions?

Trainings and conversations are just the start! There’s a poster somewhere in this school that says, “from a small spark, a fire.” That’s what trainings and conversations do – from Twitter to happenstance chats in the halls – spark change. When people start talking and are excited about something, that energy is contagious. For example, Dean Mackenzie, along with Jane Schlegal, is now looking into making feminine products free in the JHSPH building. That initiative began as an idea, which then turned into a conversation among students, and is now an initiative for menstrual health and hygiene led by the fearless Women’s Student Health Group. So, when you go to a workshop with SOURCE, I invite you to discuss what you learned with other students and see where the conversation leads.

What resources are available for students and others here at Hopkins to expand on some of the themes introduced to them in the Practicing Justice workshops?

Read! Read lots – check out curated lists ([this one is for reflecting on race](#) and [this one by friend @williamrfrey is a syllabus for eradicating racism](#)). Or look at [these guidelines for gender equity and inclusiveness](#). Or if you don’t like reading, pick up a podcast like *Intersection*, *Backtalk*, *Death, Sex & Money*, *Call Your Girlfriend*, or *Man Up*.

What do you have on the horizon? Are there any opportunities in the near future for students to either participate in or collaborate on developing a workshop?

Yes! We’re going to roll out a training soon that teaches people to lead their own workshops on recognizing and addressing micro-aggressions. I’ve also become more active with the Mental Health Graduate Network (MhGN), and we’re offering department-wide trainings for faculty to learn how to be supportive of students’ mental health. Be on the lookout for these! And if there’s a workshop topic you don’t see in the Service Scoop but want to do, I highly recommend that you reach out to SOURCE.