Diversity Sponsorship Yearbook

JNUC 2019

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While I may identify as a queer Latino, what has always taken precedence for me is building lasting connections with coworkers and friends. Surely, I have had my fair share of "diversity challenges" in the workplace: information technology is a field that is populated in large part by adult white men. (In 2014, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that 75% of all IT positions were held by men and just 25% by women. Moreover, 70% of position holders identified as "White alone" while only 7% as "Hispanic".)

These differences in the way we identify (and are identified) produce friction almost inevitably. Thus, I would prefer to use the term "negotiate," as I feel "overcome" may obscure how these additional challenges can be productive for one's professional life.

I would very much like to meet other technicians working in the industry! Mac administration is a niche in the greater IT discipline, and this is my first conference as a professional in the field. The chance to ask questions in a live session would be invaluable. I have often gleaned useful tips and tricks from listening to the Q&As; that have followed talks, so it would be a treat to participate in one.

coworkers and to make room for their experience.

I have sought to negotiate that occasional friction by joining my school's Colleagues of Color (CoC) group. Undoubtedly, finding your community is half the battle; it's reassuring to sit in a room of peers who share in your struggles or experiences. But I would suggest that it's only half. It takes patience and careful listening to become an articulate translator, to share with colleagues who may lack your point of reference. I always endeavor to listen respectfully to my

It is at times demanding to bring your whole self to the conversation. But this is precisely what is required of us when we run up against diversity challenges. I seek to build bridges and close gaps, so as to making "overcoming" less of a necessity. With any luck, and with every conversation, we draw closer together, such that difference becomes the instrument of connection, not its impediment. I have my wonderful colleagues to thank for their ongoing engagement and hope in turn to meet like-minded members of the IT workforce at JNUC.