

## SPEECH & KEYNOTE TOPICS

### **Ambiente: Defining Safe Space at the Intersection of Race and Sexuality**

The experience of individuals who identify as Latin@ and LGBT have often found difficulties in navigating what seems, to be two, very distinct cultures. Queer Latin@s not only struggle to 'fit in' to both sets of ideologies, but have also been marginalized by both cultures. In response, there continues to be a growing conversation of what it means to meet at the intersection of sexuality and ethnic identity. This speech will provide insight into various experiences and struggles, ideas of breaking through barriers, and learning how to create a distinct culture that is both safe and authentic.

### **Exploring a World of Change**

Is it me, or does the world keeps changing faster and faster? Whether we are talking about inter-generational relations, new concepts around gender identity, or learning new ways of creating community with people across the cubicle and across the globe, the primary question for this speech is, "How are you preparing for a world of constant change?" This speech is a general diversity speech good for a group that might be exploring diversity for the first time or a new topic within diversity.

### **Brown Like Me: Deconstructing the Myth of the Pan-Latino Experience**

After living and working in several parts of the country, I became convinced there needs to be a better way of talking about the Hispanic/Latin@/Chican@/Latin@ experience. The overlap of class, language, generational status, and familial country of origin all play significant factors in the way Latin@s define themselves. There is also something unique about sharing a broad common ancestry. This speech talks about those different intersectionalities and tries to break down the myths that all Brown people are the same.

### **'T' is for Trans**

The "T" at the end of the alphabet soup of letters representing the queer community has long been treated as the unrecognized stepchild of the group. The transgender population has also had to endure prejudices not only from straight and cisgender people, but also gay, lesbian and bisexual members of their proverbial family. I speak about my own engagement with the trans- community and provide tips on becoming more culturally sensitive.

### **The Power of Stigma and Fear**

Even living in the 21st century, there are still words that can send shivers up and down our spine. Even looking at the acronyms HIV and AIDS, mental images, cultural biases, and stereotypes all continue to hover in our minds about what these words are. In this speech I examine the issue of stigma and fear of HIV and AIDS through the lens of sexuality, race and religion. I explore the history of our own pre-judgements, examine fears and biases that exist within the greater context of our society and ask questions for audience members to answer for themselves.