## "Seeing" Latinx Students: Efforts to Journey Beyond Color-Blind Services

The J. Eugene Smith Library at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) is on a journey to be anti-racist. One strategy is to be color-conscious instead of color-blind. We want to "see" differences, acknowledge and celebrate assets/strengths, and provide empowering services. We do not want to ignore or deny the realities of structural racism in the lives of BIPOC students. Our first effort is to "see" our Latinx students!

## What is Racial Color-Blindness?

Color-Blind!

"Seeing"

no differences

**Color-Blind**, Racist

Actions: Services and

outreach targeted to

acknowledging any

differences, treating

students of color the

students (see definition

same as White

above)

all, without

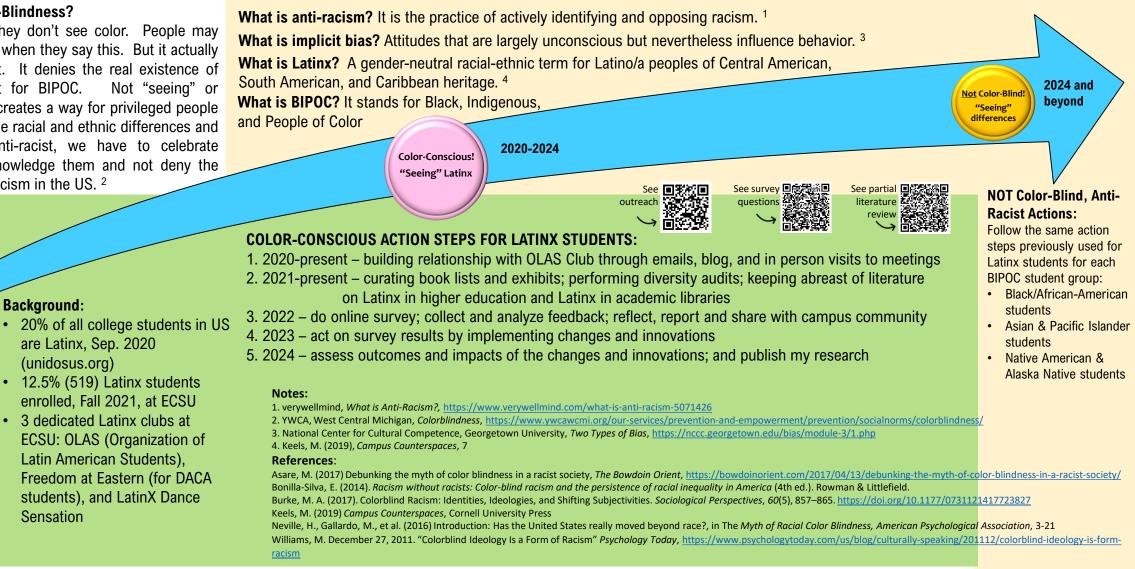
Before

2020

It is Whites saying they don't see color. People may have good intentions when they say this. But it actually is harmful and racist. It denies the real existence of disparities that exist for BIPOC. Not "seeing" or ignoring differences creates a way for privileged people to deny uncomfortable racial and ethnic differences and realities. To be anti-racist, we have to celebrate differences and acknowledge them and not deny the reality of structural racism in the US.<sup>2</sup>

**Background:** 

Sensation



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