

# affirmity

## Shine a Light on Hidden Biases

August 13, 2020

# Before we start, a few things....

1. Today's presentation is being recorded and will be in listen-only mode.
2. The recording and a copy of the presentation will be sent to all registrants in a few days.
3. If you have any questions during today's presentation, please enter them in the Questions section of the control panel and we will answer as many questions as possible by end of presentation.
4. If we are unable to answer questions during the allotted time, we will follow up individually via email.
5. When you exit today's webinar, you will see a brief survey. Please take a few moments to complete the survey.

# Introducing...

**Pam Pujo**

Diversity Advocate  
Affirmity



**Patrick McNiel, PhD**

Principal Consultant  
Affirmity

# Key Discussion Points

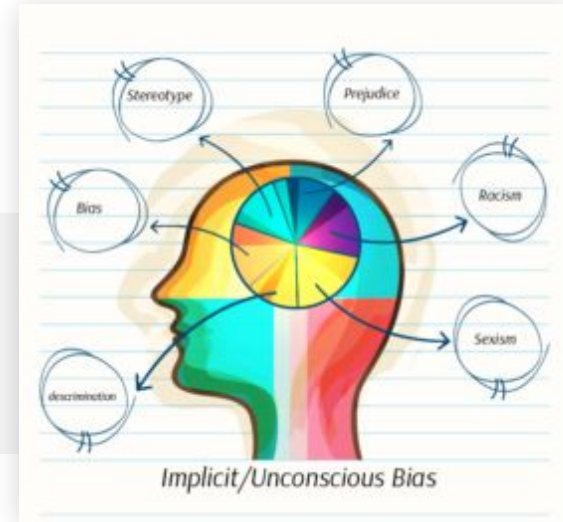
- Biases impact on employment decisions and the work environment
- Strategies to keep biases from negatively impacting employment decisions
- Solutions to minimize the impact of biases

# Polling Question

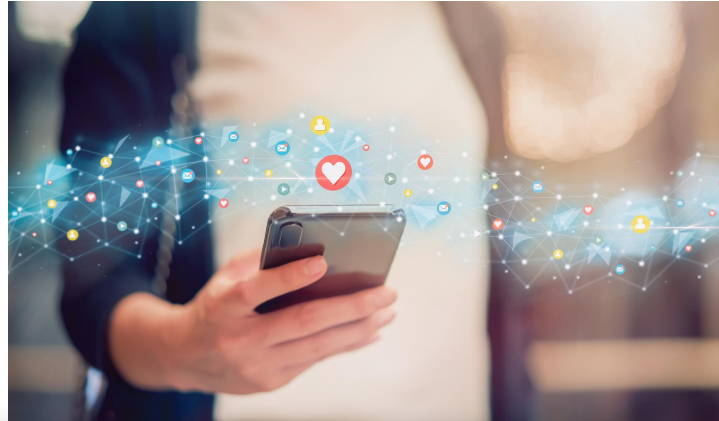
Does your organization incorporate methods to reduce bias in your workplace?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

# Conscious Bias vs. Unconscious Bias



# How Unconscious Bias Develops



**Background and cultural environment**

**Social and personal experiences**

**Biased media representations**

# Reduce the Chances of Biased Behaviors



**Ask questions instead of making assumptions**

**Speak up about misunderstandings and aim to resolve disagreements**

**Be mindful of any strong reactions that arise**



# Ways to Combat Hidden Bias



**Reframe the conversation**

**Promote positive images**

**Identify programs that  
increase diversity**

# Bias Impacts the Workplace



**34% reported withholding ideas or solutions in the last 6 months**

**48% said they looked for a new job while at their current job during the same period**

**Employees working in large companies who perceive bias are nearly 3X as likely to be disengaged at work.**

# Biases Can Lead to Many Problems

Choosing the wrong applicant for a hire or promotion

Misunderstanding customers or treating them poorly

Ignoring suggestions and feedback from certain employees

Causing talented employees to get frustrated and leave

Promoting unsuitable employees beyond their abilities

Not mentoring an individual with lots of potential

Giving an undeserved performance rating (too low or too high)

Compensating employees unfairly due to gender, race, disability or veteran status or other classification

Harassment or other unlawful behavior

# Review Your Work Environment and Processes

# Diversity Climate



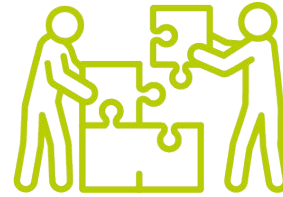
## Representation

“There are a number of prominent women at the company.”



## Support and Intentionality

“The company leadership is committed to facilitating diversity.”



## Programming and implementation

“The company has policies and procedures that fairly account for the physical and cultural needs of its diverse employees.”



## Group Dynamics

“People here seem to be at ease with others who have different backgrounds from their own.”

# Inclusion Climate

## Belonging

- “People here feel like they are an integral part of their workgroups.”

## Authenticity

- “People here encourage each other to present themselves the way they are.”



# Using Information About the Climate for D&I

A full survey of a climate for diversity is critical to understanding where to focus D&I efforts



# Biases Active When Assigning Ratings

**Performance ratings are strongly affected by biases in the people who make the ratings.**

There are a number of biases that are particularly relevant to the assignment of performance ratings and all raters should be trained on how to mitigate the effects of these biases.

## Affect and Liking

Halo and Horns

Central Tendency

Contrast effects

Leniency and Severity

Recency

Negative Event

Like Me

Stereotyping

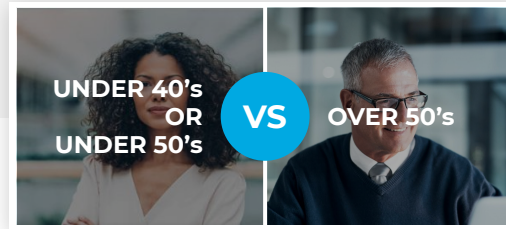
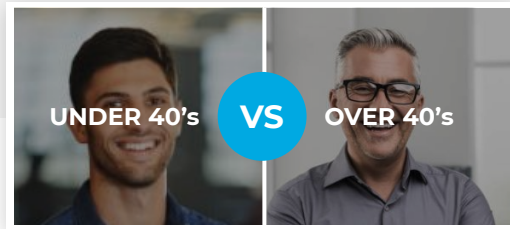
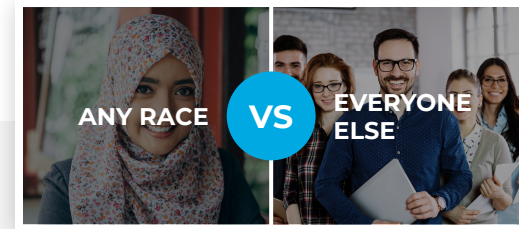
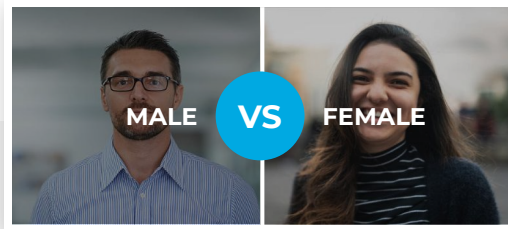
Attractiveness

## The Fundamental Attribution Error



# Assessing Bias Statistically

Before relying on performance ratings to justify employment decisions, it's good practice to determine if those ratings are showing bias with regard to protected groups:



# Polling Question

Does your organization facilitate Unconscious Bias training? If so, is the training mandatory or voluntary?

- Yes, mandatory
- Yes, voluntary
- No, we don't offer

# Why Unconscious Bias Training?

# Questions to Answer

Ask questions to help identify your exact training needs.



# Strategy for Successful Training



**Design a multi-layered curriculum**

**Measure results**

**Communicate frequently**

# Measure the Effectiveness of the Training



**Examine improvements in people's perceptions of the culture**

**Measure inclusivity and diversity**

**Track a decline in counterproductive work behaviors**

# Avoid Training Traps

**“One and done” or Check the Box**

**Not customized specifically for the industry or company**

**Not part of overall D&I strategy**

**Reinforces negative stereotypes**



# Key Takeaways

**Biases can negatively impact employment decisions and the work environment**

**Identify strategies to keep biases from negatively impacting employment decisions**

**Create a climate built upon diversity and inclusivity**

**Implement solutions to for behavioral changes and positive impact such as Unconscious Bias training**





# Polling Question

Would you be interested in more information about Affirmity's Unconscious Bias training?

- Yes, have an Affirmity expert contact me
- No



**Any questions?**

# One last thing....

- Webinar presentation & recording – Will be sent to all registrants within two business days
- Survey – Please take a few minutes to complete a survey as you exit today’s webinar
- Questions or comments – If you have any questions or comments, [info@affirmity.com](mailto:info@affirmity.com)

Date	Time (CDT)	Webinar Title
Sept 10	1 PM CT	Cultivating Fair Pay in the Workplace
Sept 24	1 PM CT	Strategies and Tools for Optimizing Your Affirmative Action and Diversity Programs



affirmity

Thank You

[Affirmity.com](https://affirmity.com) or [info@affirmity.com](mailto:info@affirmity.com)

Twitter: [@Affirmity\\_DI](https://twitter.com/Affirmity_DI)

LinkedIn: [linked.com/company/Affirmity](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Affirmity)