

Citizens' Unity Commission -- FALL 2016

# diversity MATTERS

Sometimes you have to see people as a crayon. They may not be your favorite color, but you need them to complete the picture.

## New Executive Director of Unity Commission!

Synetheia Newby, a native of Hampton is the new executive director of the Citizens' Unity Commission.

In announcing the appointment, City Manager Mary Bunting noted that Newby is a “self-motivated, personable and innovative professional committed to excellence in developing people, organizations and programs. She has achieved notable success, throughout her career, by bringing diverse groups of people together to work toward achieving common goals.”

Newby, who previously served as youth violence prevention coordinator for the city, said, “receiving this opportunity to partner with the community... is one of the ways that I choose to give back to the community that gave me so much.” The Commission “brings together diverse people and diverse cultures to create a unified community, without threatening the value of individual contributions! I’m working to see Hampton not only be the most livable city, but to also be the most hospitable and peaceable city. A city where everyone feels welcomed, accepted, embraced, and included.”

Over the years, Newby has provided educational and awareness services, workshops, training and presentations to the general public, faith-based organizations, secondary and post-secondary students, professionals and civic leaders.



**How Diversity Makes Us Smarter:** Being around people who are different from us makes us more creative, more diligent and harder-working By [Katherine W. Phillips](#) on October 1, 2014

Decades of research by organizational scientists, psychologists, sociologists, economists and demographers show that socially diverse groups (that is, those with a diversity of race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation) are more innovative than homogeneous groups.

It seems obvious that a group of people with diverse individual expertise would be better than a homogeneous group at solving complex, nonroutine problems. It is less obvious that social diversity should work in the same way—yet the science shows that it does.

This is not only because people with different backgrounds bring new information. Simply interacting with individuals who are different forces group members to prepare better, to anticipate alternative viewpoints and to expect that reaching consensus will take effort.

Continue reading this article at: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-diversity-makes-us-smarter/>

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Diversity College Level 1 & 2

The Hampton Diversity College is a course of multimedia, interactive and experiential diversity education that concentrates on diversity and inclusion in contemporary workplaces and in our community.

Register now for classes at [hampton.gov/unity](http://hampton.gov/unity) or call (757) 728-3279.

### Level 1

January 12 – February 9, 2017  
Thursdays, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

April 27 – May 25, 2017  
Thursdays, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

#### **Level I Sessions include:**

- ✚ Diversity 101
- ✚ Race, Ethnicity & Culture Pt.1
- ✚ Disability Awareness
- ✚ Intergenerational Diversity

### Level 2

Thursdays, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

#### **Level II Sessions include:**

- ✚ Race, Ethnicity & Culture Pt. II  
March 2 & 9
- ✚ LGBTQ Diversity  
March 16 & 23
- ✚ Inclusion  
March 30 & April 6
- ✚ Close out & Graduation  
April 13

Completion of Level I sessions is required.

PARTICIPANTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ALL SESSIONS.

LOCATIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 2016

### Citizens' Unity Commission General Meeting

October 17, 6:00pm, City Hall, 5<sup>th</sup> floor,  
Community Development Conference Room

### Citizens' Engagement Advisory & Review Commission Annual Retreat

October 29th, 9:00am, Old Point National Bank,  
101 E. Queens Way, Hampton

### Citizens' Engagement Advisory & Review Commission General Meeting

November 15th, 6:30pm, 1 Franklin St,  
Veterans Conference Room

### Hampton 101

#### Join us for a day with the City!

Spend a day with some of the city's top leaders and learn valuable and exciting information about Hampton. Find out what makes Hampton unique, livable and a great place to call home!

The next Hampton 101 will be held **October 29, 2016**. This workshop is in partnership with the City of Hampton and Hampton City Schools and an exciting bus tour will be taken around the City of Hampton.

Register now at:

<http://hampton.gov/2291/Hampton-101-Registration>

## Citizens Unity Commission Staff

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