**WHAT IS DIVERSITY? Activities to build community in your class.**

The first activity (as a class) is often an eye-opener for the local students, and a chance for international or immigrant students to name their place of birth out loud.

The second activity (as a group) often leads to discussions about the things students share in common – e.g. love of soccer, or lying under a tree on their grandfather’s farm.

**As a class: WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**Have students write down on a card the place they were born, or spent the most time as a child. They then line up from “east” to “west”, with Durham College as an imaginary centre point. The students must discuss the order and line themselves up. Students from Oshawa and Whitby end up organizing themselves by north/south streets. Many pull out their phones to check maps to figure out if Colombia would be west or east of Ontario.

Ask the students to sound off from “west to east” saying out loud where they are from.

**In groups: WHAT MAKES YOU DIVERSE?**

Have students write down point form answers to the following questions. They then share their answers with the group. The group negotiates whether one person says everything before the next person speaks, or whether they’ll share all their answers to #1, then #2 and so on.

1. If another place besides your “birth/growing up” location has meaning for you, tell us where it is, and why it has meaning.

2. Tell us your favourite childhood activity or memory or food.

3. Tell us if you were you brought up in a particular religion or faith, what it is, and if you still practice it yourself or with others. (Give the students the option of NOT sharing this, if they find it too personal.)

4. Tell us about a group you belong to, an activity you care about, OR an accomplishment of which you are proud.

5. Who all was directly involved in your coming to Durham College? (E.g. who gave financial help, permission, agreement)

6. Do you think you are a typical Canadian? Why or why not?

7. Name one thing that you think makes you “diverse” that is not related to “obvious” differences – e.g. Ran a marathon, eat only raw food, once travelled to Bali, 1st person in your family to attend post-secondary etc.

**As individuals: WERE YOU SURPRISED?**

Have the students write a reflection about one thing that surprised or interested them about the discussion they had with their new group.