Shayna Taffinder Social Science Education 11/24/14

In the constantly developing diverse world we live in, Valley City is quickly becoming much more diverse than more locals could've ever imagined. While the community may be at a different pace of acceptance of this quickly developing diversity, Valley City State University is constantly bringing in students of all different cultures and backgrounds. As a university that is continuing to build in several ways, I think it is very important to also continue enhancing our diversity. One of the greatest components of diversity is the ability to engage with others from different areas, backgrounds, and those with different views. As an international student from Vancouver, British Columbia, I've come to VCSU and made friends with students and staff from not only all over USA and Canada, but even overseas as well. I think the greatest experience in university is the relationships that one makes. VCSU is a tight knit community and creates a family environment where I can call my home; the best part of this home is that I share it with a diverse group of students and staff that have helped me learn about the world and about myself. Diversity is undeniably a key component in quality education. As a future educator, I'm always intrigued to learn about diversity and how to incorporate it in my classroom as I enter the teaching work field. I think it greatly enriches the educational experience by sharing ideas, values, skills, and even different understandings and appreciation of life. One of the most beautiful concepts I've come to learn since being at VCSU is that no one is ever alone; we are all people of the same planet that go through extreme experiences both good and bad. Diversity, in my eyes, promotes the idea of inclusiveness and helps bring everyone together. In order to better understand one another, we must communicate. Diversity provides us with challenges and the ability to communicate effectively with students and people of all different backgrounds. I think we can continue to strengthen diversity, and even critical thinking, by group activities. Acknowledging and appreciating diversity strengthens us as individuals to make a difference in our school and community; this can be achieved through group interaction in classroom activities as well as social campus activities. Diversity requires teamwork, appreciation, respect, and the ability to work together in an environment where our differences are irrelevant because it is our contributions and character that truly matter. Diversity at VCSU is continuing to grow and it unites us in ways that better us as individuals and as a group of tomorrow's future; the more experience we have with diversity and working with one another, the better understanding we have of our world and how we can positively contribute. In order to keep enhancing our diversity, I think we can all contribute by reaching out to diverse prospective students from all over, and using social media and social activities to get students involved and connected with our diverse campus as VCSU. As we continue to become more diverse, we will ultimately strengthen our generation and future generations in ways of understanding and appreciating our diverse world than could've been possible in the past.