**The Centrality of Human Diversity to Advancement and Innovation in Research and Education**

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The global human family faces a multitude of challenges in the 21st century, best articulated by the UN as the 17 Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. Academics and scientists in particular have a crucial role to play in transitioning humanity to a better future through research and education. This event will present the case for the urgent need for universities to actively promote and support ‘human’ diversity among teaching, research, and leadership professionals. The main goal would be to capitalize on the potential and talent of traditionally under-represented, legally-labeled and defined 'minority' groups. This major task starts by acknowledging the research that shows that there are inequities facing women and minority populations in the sciences, and that we should be making concerted and conscious efforts to educate ourselves with ‘tricks of the human mind’ influenced by historical and social conditioning that do not and will not serve our professional societies in the long term. Afterall, *“Good people are not those who lack flaws, the brave are not those who feel no fear, and the generous are not those who never feel selfish. Extraordinary people are not extraordinary because they are invulnerable to unconscious biases. They are extraordinary because they choose to do something about it.”-* Shankar Vedantam, Author “The Hidden Brain”