



On October 28, 2020, Jayvon Harmon and Shaila Sams, Unity for Diversity members, interviewed Victorica Monroe. The chemistry between Jayvon, Shaila, and Victorica was powerful. The camaraderie

between them authenticated their beautiful existence as Black folxs. Their questions nourished the much-needed answers about being Black, Deaf-Blind, and Androgynous, which is why we must honor every facet of our students' intersecting backgrounds.

Victorica shared a story- at seven years old, she realized that she was different from her white peers when she encountered a racist white man who called her ugly names. Victorica had to ask her mother why that happened, and that was when she realized she would be treated differently just because she is Black. At the same time, she was fortunate to be surrounded by her family, who influenced her to love her Blackness. However, when she entered Deaf schools, she did not have any Black Deaf role models until she entered college. Victorica was surprised to learn that Black Deaf people could obtain their doctoral degrees. That is when she realized that Black Deaf people could do more in life. She wished she had more encouragement in cherishing her Blackness in Deaf schools.

Pearls of Wisdom from Victoria Monroe

1. If anyone ever tells you that you cannot do something, do not listen and know that it means YOU CAN do whatever you want to accomplish.
2. Know your worth as a Black Deaf person and LGBTQIA.
3. The school systems need to expose more information on Black and Brown Deaf role models in different fields.
4. Discuss LGBTQIA and have role models where students could learn from as an ally or to self-identify.
5. It is also so important that all schools that serve Black Indigenous Students of Color Deaf hire and retain more educators that are BIPOC.

Special Thanks to Jayvon Harmon and Shaila Sams for doing such a marvelous job!