MEASURING INCLUSION IN THE WORKPLACE

Marc Bendick, Jr. Mary Lou Egan www.bendickegan.com

Presidential Session on "Launching Diversity Science" American Psychological Association Annual Conference San Francisco August 2007 Quantitative measures are at the center of our strategy for workplace change, because--

- <u>Parallelism</u>: Quantitative measures make workforce diversity look and feel like other goals managers are used to achieving.
- <u>Motivation</u>: Measurement can document unconscious bias which employers often do not recognize.
- <u>Implementation</u>: Managers deliver what they are held accountable for.
- Direction: Measures define the problem, which then defines the solution.

- Legally-mandated measures (Table 1) are often not well matched to today's predominant workplace discrimination problems.
- In many workplaces, 1967's "inexorable zero" has given way to 2007's "diversity without inclusion."
- Encapsulated actions can meet representation goals without ensuring sustainability.
- Piecemeal analysis leads to group-specific solutions which are often divisive and ineffective (e.g., promotional goals and timetables, "mommy track").
- Fundamental Issue: These measures treat employee diversity as the problem, not as symptoms of an underlying problem: lack of organizational inclusion.

Table 1. Representation of one racial minority group in one unit of an upscale restaurant chain, 2006.

	Employees on 6/30/06		2000			Standard
Job	Total	Minority	Census	Shortfall		
Title	Employees	%	Minority %	%	#	Deviations
Manager	6	0.0%	22.6%	- 22.6%	- 1.4	- 1.3
Chef	5	20.0%	39.0%	- 19.0%	- 1.0	- 0.9
Cook	16	35.7%	41.2%	- 5.5%	- 0.9	- 0.4
Dishwasher	6	50.0%	32.5%	+ 17.5%	+ 1.1	+ 0.9
Bartender	5	0.0%	19.5%	- 19.5%	- 1.0	- 1.1
Server	42	4.8%	21.7%	-16.9%	-7.1	-2.7*
Busser	7	42.9%	33.4%	+ 9.5%	+ 0.7	+ 0.5
* p < .05						

Diagnosis: To measure inclusion at one firm, we first identified all characteristics which might divide in-groups from outgroups. Ingroups are defined by modal values.

Modal Cultural & Personal <u>Characteristics</u>

- White
- Male
- Age 36-55
- Grew up in US or Europe
- US or European citizen
- English native language
- Married w/ dependents

Modal Education & Experience <u>Characteristics</u>

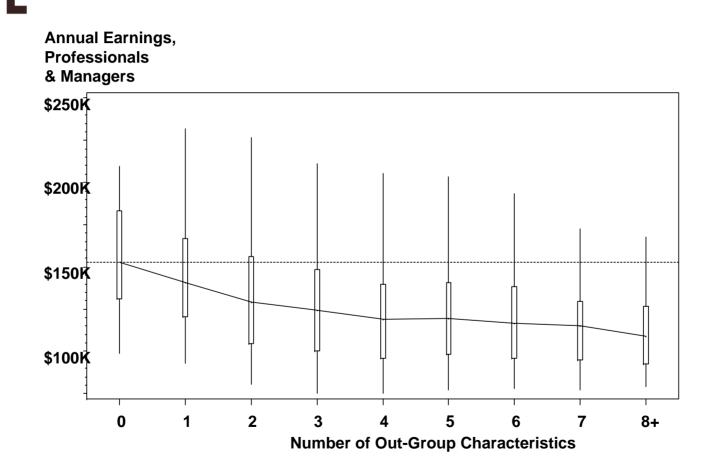
- English native language
- Degrees from 20 "core" universities
- No degrees outside business
- Outside experience < 8 years
- All outside work in same industry
- With firm > 8 years
- <u><</u> 1 career shifts within firm

 Diagnosis: Negative coefficients in multiple cells show barriers to inclusion at this firm are <u>systemic</u>, not groupspecific or process-specific.

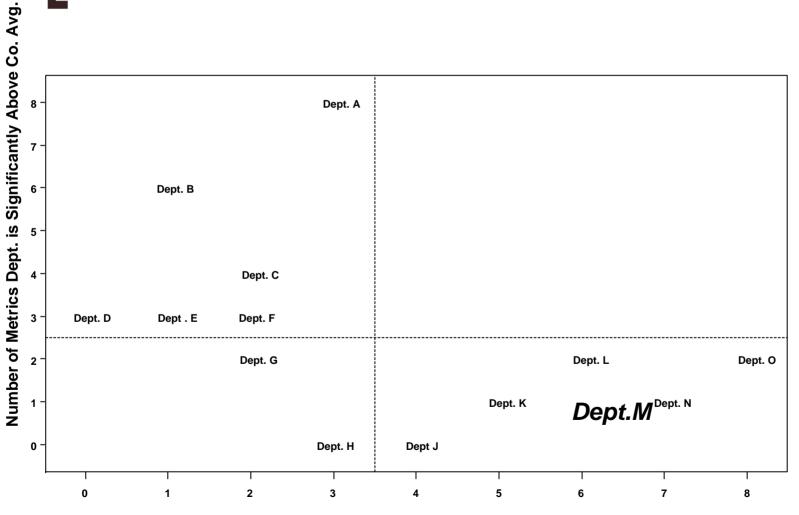
Multiple regression coefficients controlling for productivity-related characteristics

Out - Group Characteristics	Annual Earnings	Probability is a Manager	Probability of Inter-Dept. Mobility
Cultural & Personal Characteristics	- 14.5%	- 40.4%	- 79.0%
Educational & Experience Characteristics	- 9.7%	- 26.8%	- 89.6%

Implementation: The same measures can be used to train managers to focus on the firm's inclusion, not employee diversity.



Implementation: The measures can also be used to hold individual managers accountable.



Number of Metrics on which Dept. is Significantly Below Co. Avg.

Implications for "Launching Diversity Science"

- Launch "Inclusion Science."
- Companies and society have a major stake in correct workforce diversity management.
- Behavioral science contributions, which are key to sustainable inclusion, are currently under-utilized or mis-utilized.

For Further Reading

- American Bar Association (2006). Visible invisibility, Women of color in law firms. Chicago: American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession.
- Bendick, M., Jr. & Egan, M.L. (2000). "Changing workplace cultures to reduce employment discrimination." Presentation, Urban Institute.*
- Bendick, Jr., M, Egan, M, & Lofhjelm, S. (2001). "Diversity training, From legal compliance to organizational development." *Human Resource Planning* 24, 10-25.*
- Bielby, W. (2000). "Minimizing workplace gender and racial bias." *Contemporary Sociology* 29, 120-129.
- Dobbin, F., Kalev, A., & Kelly, E. (2006). "Best practices or best guesses? Assessing the efficacy of corporate affirmative action and diversity policies." *American Sociological Review* 71, 589-617.
- Egan, M.L. (forthcoming, 2007). "Teaching multicultural management: Creating stereotypes or ensuring cultural competence?" *
- Hewlett, D., & Bendick, Jr., M. (forthcoming, 2007). "Enhancing women's inclusion in firefighting." *

*available at <u>www.bendickegan.com/publications</u>