

TO ME INCLUSION IS, REGARDLESS OF ANYTHING, BEING INCLUDED WITH EVERYONE.

DIVERSITY TO ME MEANS ACCEPTING AND RESPECTING ALL THE DIFFERENCES AND EVERYTHING THAT EACH PERSON BRINGS TO THE TABLE.

INCLUSION IS TO FEEL LIKE YOU ARE A PART OF EVERYTHING GOING ON. TO NOT FEEL LIKE YOU'RE BEING LEFT OUT.

DIVERSITY MEANS BLACK, WHITE, IT DON'T MATTER WHATEVER RACE, CREED, OR COLOR, OR WHATEVER RELIGION THAT YOU HAVE. TO WHERE WE ARE ABLE TO DIVERSE AND COME TOGETHER.

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ADRIENNE SOULE, SHIPBUILDER

I WAS BORN IN SELMA, AL RIGHT AT THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. WE DIDN'T LIVE THERE VERY LONG, MY DAD WAS IN THE AIR FORCE. WE MOVED TO TEXAS, CALIFORNIA, NEW JERSEY, WASHINGTON STATE, JAPAN. SO I'VE HAD QUITE A LOT OF EXPERIENCES. WHEN I GOT BACK TO VIRGINIA I ENTERED THOMAS EATON MIDDLE SCHOOL. THERE WAS A VERY BIG RACE DIVISION IN THAT SCHOOL AT THAT TIME. I JUST HAD A HARD TIME UNDERSTANDING WHY WERE PEOPLE HATING EACH OTHER AND FIGHTING WITH EACH OTHER BECAUSE OF THEIR SKIN COLOR. TO ME I HAD NOT EXPERIENCED THAT, WE DID NOT HAVE THAT DIVISION ON BASE. IF WE HAD ANY KIND OF DIFFERENCES IT WAS, "MY DAD'S A COLONEL, AND YOUR DAD'S A MAJOR." IT WAS NOT YOUR SKIN COLOR.

BEYOND THE RACE ISSUE THAT I EXPERIENCED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL I SOON LEARNED THAT THERE WERE OTHER STEREOTYPES. I ACTUALLY WAS A VICTIM OF A STEREOTYPE BECAUSE I HAVE BLONDE HAIR. I'M A BLONDE FEMALE. WELL EVERYONE KNOWS BLONDES HAVE MORE FUN. SO, I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH BEING BLONDE. I HAVE A LOT OF FUN WITH THE "BLONDE-ISMS" AND THE BLONDE JOKES. I LAUGH AT THEM JUST AS HARD AS ANYBODY ELSE. BUT I DON'T LIKE WHEN SOMEBODY DISCREDITS ME, OR UNDERESTIMATES MY INTELLIGENCE. THE MEN SOMETIMES MAKE THE FEMALES FEEL LIKE WE'RE INADEQUATE. SOME WOMEN MAYBE DON'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO CHALLENGE THOSE STEREOTYPES. YOU MAY HAVE JUST DISCOURAGED SOMEBODY WHO COULD HAVE BEEN A VERY POWERFUL FORCE.

I TELL YA, I'M ONE OF THE BEST PLANNERS IN THE SHIPYARD, AND I'M VERY PROUD TO SAY THAT. I GRADUATED WITH HONORS FROM THOMAS NELSON. I WENT TO CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT. THEN I CAME HERE TO THE APPRENTICE SCHOOL AND I STARED AS AN X31 ON THE WATERFRONT, WHERE I EXCELLED BOTH ACADEMICALLY AND IN THE SHOP. THEN AS I WAS FINISHING UP MY FOUR YEAR APPRENTICESHIP THEY STARTED THE DESIGN APPRENTICESHIP. I ENTERED THAT PROGRAM, DID ANOTHER THREE YEAR APPRENTICESHIP. I CONTINUED TO EXCEL AND GRADUATED WITH HONORS FROM THE APPRENTICE SCHOOL. I'M PROUD OF THAT, I CONSIDER IT A CHALLENGE. I CONSIDER IT A CHALLENGE WHEN ANYBODY EVER UNDERESTIMATES ANY OF MY SKILLS, OR ABILITIES, OR TALENTS. TO ME IT'S A CHALLENGE TO TRY TO PROVE THEM WRONG.

AIRHEAD

DITZY

DUMB BLONDE

DIZZY

ALL THOSE WORDS.

IT DEPENDS ON THE CIRCUMSTANCE NOW. SOMETIMES IT'S ALL IN PLAY. WHEN PEOPLE SAY IN MEETINGS SOMETIMES, THEY'LL SAY LIKE, "THAT'S A DUMB BLONDE MOVE." OF COURSE THEY AREN'T TALKING TO ME BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE PERSONALLY INSULTING BUT IT'S STILL, REALLY? HOW IS THAT A "DUMB BLONDE" MOVE? IF YOU SUBSTITUTED AN ETHNIC GROUP, OR A RACE, OR PEOPLE OF A CERTAIN RELIGION AND YOU ALWAYS PAIRED "DUMB" WITH THAT OTHER SUBSTITUTION THAT'S NOT ACCEPTABLE. BUT WITH DUMB BLONDE IT'S ACCEPTABLE. WE ALL MAKE STUPID MISTAKES, THERE'S A FORGIVENESS, BUT IF YOU'RE A BLONDE FEMALE AND YOU MAKE A MISTAKE IT'S A BIG THING IN THE MINDS OF OTHER PEOPLE. YOU'VE JUST PROVEN THEM RIGHT IN THEIR ASSUMPTION. SO IN THE FACE OF THE DUMB BLONDE JOKES AND THE DUMB BLONDE STEREOTYPE I HAVE DELIGHTED IN SURPRISING PEOPLE WITH THE KIND OF THINGS THAT I CAN DO.