

The AM I OK? Diversity Innovation Grant project took place on Thursday April 20, 2017 at 7:00 in Hodson 110. The project aimed to highlight mental health and bring awareness to the difficulties faced by students with marginalized intersecting identities, equipping them with practical tips on how to respond to identity based discrimination.

Dr. David Goode-Cross, the Assistant Director for Training in the Counseling Center at American University, presented his research at the event, which focused specifically on the intersection of race and sexuality as it relates to educational persistence. Towards the end of the event, Goode-Cross also spoke more broadly about themes relating to mental health, and diversity and inclusion best practices for higher education institutions.

The turnout for the event was about 25 undergraduate Johns Hopkins University students as well as 2 Johns Hopkins University staff members. Through conversation with the attendees after the event it was gathered that most people walked away with a renewed perspective for those holding identities that differed from theirs, and a better understanding of the impact diversity and inclusion work can have at the college level. Looking towards the future it seems important that space is continually created on the Johns Hopkins University Undergraduate campus for conversations that address specific marginalized, intersecting identities. This is necessary so that more minority and minoritized students have an opportunity to learn how to prioritize their mental health and general well being whilst attending Johns Hopkins University and focusing on their academics as undergraduates.