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Attitudes Toward Diversity Among White College Students: Relationship With Gender, Year in School, Openness, and Colorblind Racial Attitudes

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Poster Presentation P47

**ATTITUDES TOWARD DIVERSITY AMONG WHITE COLLEGE STUDENTS:
RELATIONSHIP WITH GENDER, YEAR IN SCHOOL, OPENNESS, AND
COLORBLIND RACIAL ATTITUDES**

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Previous research has illustrated numerous benefits of experiencing diversity, notably in college. These benefits include heightened intellectual, racial or cultural, and citizenship engagements. Diversity involvement may also reduce racial prejudice. Despite these documented factors, not all students have positive attitudes toward diversity initiatives or the topic of race in particular. Specifically, research suggests that White college students are less likely to engage in diversity-related experiences. Fostering positive attitudes toward diversity and general awareness about diversity-related constructs might enhance the benefits of a diverse campus, especially for White students. However, correlates of positive attitudes toward diversity must first be explored to determine what influences these beliefs. This study examined the relations of gender, year in school, openness to experience, and colorblind racial attitudes with respect to attitudes toward diversity. Participants were White undergraduate students from a small, private, liberal arts college. Results and their implications will be discussed.