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Diversity much more than racial awareness

By [Mary Chao](#)
Democrat and Chronicle

(May 7, 2002) — When people think of diversity, they usually think of race and gender, said Mike Streeter, vice chairman of diversity at the Greater Rochester Diversity Council.

But diversity is far more than just the color of someone's skin. It means having a work force that includes people of all different backgrounds -- with everyone contributing ideas.

For example, the council will host a seminar called "Engaging white men as full diversity partners" during its two-day conference next week. Other seminars at the conference: "Religion at the office door," and "People with disabilities."

"Diversity includes diversity of thought," said Bill Thomas, vice president of human resources at Rochester Gas and Electric. When recruiting for a diverse work force,



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RG&E considers age, socioeconomic background and whether that person grew up in an urban or rural environment, Thomas said.

"It's about inclusiveness," Streeter said. "This involves everybody."



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