## BLACK & BROWN BURNOUT: THE REALITIES OF RACIAL BATTLE FATIGUE Varselles Cummings (he/him) Anneliese Bustillo (she/her)

## **YOUR PRESENTERS**

## **Varselles Cummings**

Director, UH Center for Diversity & Inclusion

## **Anneliese Bustillo**

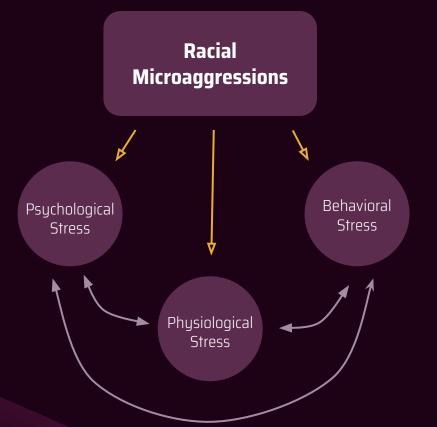
- Director, UH Women & Gender Resource Center
- Doctoral Student, UH
  Higher Education
  Leadership & Policy
  Studies

## **GROUP NORMS**



# WHAT IS RACIAL BATTLE FATIGUE?

A response to the emotional distress that arises from daily encounters with racism



How often have you felt the impacts of Racial Battle Fatigue?

# WHAT IS A MICROAGGRESSION?

"

Commonplace verbal or behavioral indignities, whether intentional or unintentional, which communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative racial slights and insults

## **TYPES OF MICROAGGRESSIONS**

#### **Microinsults**

Often Unconscious

Behavioral/verbal remarks or comments that convey rudeness or insensitivity and demean a person's racial identity

#### **Microassaults**

Often Conscious

Explicitly racial denigrations characterized primarily as violent verbal or nonverbal attacks meant to the hurt the intended victim

### **Microinvalidations**

Often Unconscious

Verbal comments or behaviors that exclude, negate, or nullify the thoughts, feelings, or experiences of BIPOCs

## BREAK INTO SMALL GROUPS

- What questions do you ask yourself after experiencing a microaggression?
- ▶ What considerations do you make when determining if/how to respond?

## GROUP SHARING

Chat, Share Outs, Validations

## WAYS TO COPE WITH RBF

## Responding

Practice responding in a way that's right for YOU. That can be in the moment or later.

#### Rest

Use your sick leave, fitness leave, wellness leave, and vacation time. Seek professional help if you feel you need to.

## Counterspaces

Build relationships across campus and develop spaces where you can be your authentic self.

## Forgive Yourself

Do not hold onto the weight of other's expectations. Address any guilt you feel about your emotions.

### Set Boundaries

Talk to a supervisor about setting up boundaries that help you be more productive.

### You're Not Alone

Remember you do not have to fight every fight or battle it alone. Step back when you need to, take care of your own wellbeing, and enlist the help of others.

## TRAUMA INFORMED RESPONSE

#### **#1 Validate**

Address feelings first

- "I'm sorry that happened. You deserve better."
- "Ooph that hurts."
- "I would've felt triggered too."
- "I can't believe they said that. Are you okay?"

#### **#2 Reframe**

When <u>appropriate</u>, help them process

- "It sounds like they had no idea how problematic that was"
- "Did you feel like their intention was harmful?"
- "Were you surprised to hear them say that?"
- "Was this the first time they've pulled something like that?"

### #3 Address It

If they feel comfortable, help plan next steps

- "Do you want to address it with them? Need help figuring out what to sau?"
- "Do you want to report it? Can I help?"
- Recommend FBI (feelings - behavior impact)

## **QUESTIONS?**

**Varselles Cummings** 

vlcummin@central.uh.edu

**Anneliese Bustillo** 

abustillo@uh.edu