Screen shows white background with orange and black OSU-OKC and Diversi-FIVE Portraits logos. Two lines of black text below the logos read, “Faculty Portrait: Elisha Oliver.” Small video camera view of Emily and Elisha in the upper right-hand corner of the screen with each having their own video camera window stacked vertically on top of each other. White background is present throughout the video.

**EMILY:** Hey everyone this is Emily from the OSU-OKC Disability Services and Diversity Office. Welcome to another of our amazing Diversi-FIVE Portraits series where we get to talk with super cool, bright people from across campus to hear their story and learn what inspires them, in five minutes or less. For accessibility we've got a descriptive transcript of this Diversi-FIVE Portraits posted right above the link to this video. Today we're honored to have one of our faculty members with us, Elisha Oliver. Thanks for being here today.

**ELISHA:** Thank you Emily for having me. It is truly an honor and I really appreciate the opportunity.

**EMILY:** Thank you, the pleasure is really ours. So tell us about yourself.

**ELISHA:** I am a professor in the Humanities Department. I'm a bio cultural anthropologist. So I've been at OSU-OKC for five years and have taught a host of Humanities courses, World Religions. And so it's just truly been a pleasure to be able to work with staff, faculty and the student.

**EMILY:** Awesome. Pro tip folks, students ask for Professor Oliver like, all the time! So tell us what sparks and inspires you.

**ELISHA:** The thing that sparks and inspires me is recognizing that "Aha" moment when students get it. I have students that come into my classroom that sometimes are discouraged. This is their first time being on a college campus and being able to share little bits and pieces of knowledge. And you see that little light come on, that light that comes on, and they get it. And they feel more involved and they become invested in their education. And they're excited about coming to class and coming to campus and learning. Being able to encourage them to be lifelong learners.

**EMILY:** I align with that feeling. There have been quite a few times where I felt like students inspired me with their strength and their courage. So what are you--what do you feel like are some of the big diversity and inclusion issues that are most relevant in our society today?

**ELISHA:** Today I mean we are faced with so many things that are that are currently happening within our society. I think the big a couple of the big five or maybe a little less than the big five. But what I see as most important is looking at systemic and structural racism. Ableism. Ageism. And just making sure that all students have equal access, all, not only students but just all individuals have equal access to the resources that they need whether they're health, education, those type of things.

**EMILY:** I think what you've said is so resonant and important because if we don't have these conversations about some of these inequalities that exist, society doesn't move forward in a way.

**ELISHA:** Exactly.

**EMILY:** Yeah.

**ELISHA:** Exactly.

**EMILY:** Our campus is so gifted to have you with us and it's been such a pleasure teaming with you to support our amazing students. And we're so glad to have you here with us.

**ELISHA:** Thank you. Thank you. I've enjoyed all of my entire time. The students are great. The everyone is great. So it's it's really been pleasurable. It's been a gift to me.

**EMILY:** Awesome. So in just a few seconds we have left, mayonnaise or Miracle Whip on sandwiches?

**ELISHA:** It depends. I'm both, and I'm one of those different types of girls. I like mayonnaise with my fries. So...(laughs).

**EMILY:** That's the European way, I've heard. (laughs)

**ELISHA:** Yes. (laughs)

**EMILY:** All right friends, so here's the power question. Would you like to be a guest on Diversi-FIVE Portraits and hear your voice?

Screen changes and multiple lines of text read,“Want to be one of our Diversi-FIVE Portraits? Let’s Connect! Emily Cheng, Director of Disability Services and Diversity, Student Center, Room 136. (405) 945-3385. [emily.cheng@okstate.edu](mailto:emily.cheng@okstate.edu).” The word “Diversi-FIVE” is displayed as the same orange and black Diversi-FIVE Portraits logo.

**EMILY:** We would love to hear from you. So reach out to me and we would love to get you scheduled for Diversi-FIVE Portraits. Until then, take care of yourselves and those around you.