At the top of the screen yellow text on a white background reads, “DIVERSI-FIVE.” Lines of black text on a gray background underneath it read, “Dr. Steven E. Collins, OSU-OKC, 2020, Should I See Color?” Small video camera view of Steven in the lower right-hand corner of the screen.

**STEVEN:** Hello I'm Dr. Steven Collins, I'm the Lead Political Science Professor at OSU in Oklahoma City. Welcome to another lecture in our Diversi-FIVE series. The topic is "Should I See Color." I want to state unequivocally that yes, you should.

On screen is an image of small rectangles that are of all colors and shades of the rainbow, all in equal shapes and sizes.

**STEVEN:** Because you see differences in another person or group, it doesn't make us weaker. It helps us to confront those differences early on so we can do something about those later. And I intend to show you throughout this video that that can be very powerful.

Screen changes to yellow text on a white background that reads, “CELEBRATE DIFFERENCES.” Lines of black text on a gray background underneath it read, “Our differences shape who we are as people. Recognizing those differences make us stronger. Our diversity is a strength not a liability.”

**STEVEN:** First, it helps us to celebrate them. Once we see them, we're able to celebrate the differences that we possess. Our differences shape who we are as people. Recognizing those differences, remember, make us stronger. Our diversity is a strength, not a liability. It helps us if we're stronger moving forward. And the only way to be stronger moving forward is we celebrate that we \*all\* have differences. Now I also have to realize that because I am a certain way, does it make it any better because another person inherently is different.

Screen changes to yellow text on a white background that reads, “LEARN ABOUT ‘OTHERS’.” Lines of black text on a gray background underneath it read, “Learning about others can be very empowering. It causes you to understand their plight. Knowledge is always power!”

**STEVEN:** Learn about others. The educational aspect of this. Learning and education is power. Learn about others so you can understand their plight. You can understand their struggles. Because we all have them. Right? And sometimes when you don't learn about others you tend to see them as individuals when something befalls them, that they deserved it. It was a product of some bad behavior. And with yourself, you think it's bad luck. And you think when you get a benefit it's because you earned it. And if somebody else gets a benefit it's because they were lucky. Learn about others. Once you learn about others knowledge becomes power.

Screen changes to yellow text on a white background that reads, “CHECK YOUR PRIVILEGE.” Lines of black text on a gray background underneath it read, “Privilege denotes some unearned benefit due to a characteristic. Privilege extends far past race into wealth, religion, sex, or sexual orientation.”

**STEVEN:** And check your privilege. And oftentimes times this has a racial connotation. But it extends well beyond race into wealth, religion, sex, or sexual orientation. Privilege denotes some unearned benefit due to a characteristic. So here's the situation with privilege. Oftentimes individuals think that you're saying that there's something bad. That that is something bad that they got, they got, they did not earn. What I intend to tell you with privilege is this. It \*is\* bad if you don't understand it. If you don't understand why you're in that situation. And I'll share a story with you. I had no, \*no\* control over being born into a two- parent home. Not only was I born into a two-parent home, my mother had a college degree before I did. That puts me in a small percentage of black men, middle-aged black men, who had a parent that beat them to get a college degree. That put me in a category where I was able to exercise some sort of privilege. I remember going to my mom's college campus, she went to Southwestern Oklahoma State University. I had the opportunity go sit in to some of her history classes with her. This was huge because education was placed on my mind at an early age. And remember, that is not something that I \*earned\*. That was something that came by chance. I couldn't pick my parents. I was lucky enough to be in that situation. However, I can never look down at a friend, or a classmate, or someone who was born into a situation where they were either in a single-parent home or they were born as an orphan. There are plenty of individuals who grow out of those circumstances and they beat the odds. But what you need to know is, there is a reason that statistically, some individuals do better because they say statistically, you're able to do better if you're from a two-parent home. Two incomes might come into the home. You will do a little bit better. And also they got to model having a college degree \*for\* me. So I knew that that was my path as well. I had a bit of privilege on that. I didn't \*earn\* those parents. It just happened. But I can understand that that extended a little bit of privilege my way. And it doesn't mean that the things that I work hard for and I earn, that I did not earn them. But I have to understand on whom's back that those were able to happen for me.

Screen changes to yellow text on a white background that reads, “EXERCISE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.” Lines of black text on a gray background underneath it read, “Use your voice and vote to effect change. Representation Matters! Seeing people who look like you is extremely important in a representative democracy.”

Exercise civic engagement. Use your voice and your vote to effect change. Representation matters. When we see people who look like us it is so important, especially in a representative democracy. You look at your TV screen and you say, "that Senator looks like me." So when you look at that and you see that, you understand that you can do it too. Exercise civic engagement. That includes voting. That includes debating. That includes campaigning. That includes writing letters to your elected officials. So you hold them accountable for some of these same things also.

Screen changes to yellow text on a white background that reads, “MORE RESOURCES.” Line of white text on a gray background underneath it read, “OSUOKC Office of Diversity and Inclusion.” Underneath it, blue text on a gray background reads, “<https://osuokc.edu.diversity.>” Line of white text on a gray background underneath it reads, “Oklahoma State University Division of Institutional Diversity.” Underneath it, blue text on a gray background reads, “<https://diversity.okstate.edu>.”

**STEVEN:** Would you like more resources on these things? The OSU-OKC Office of Diversity and Inclusion is www.osuokc.edu/diversity, or you can go to the main campus Oklahoma State University Division of Institutional Diversity, www.diversity.okstate.edu. And remember, should we see color? The answer is absolutely yes. And we should celebrate our differences. Thanks for listening.