



August 18, 2014

H-E-B has a long-standing commitment to diversity and inclusion under the mantra of Each and Every Person Counts. As one of the largest independent food retailers in the country, it's imperative that we strive to live this philosophy each and every day within our workforce, workplace and marketplace.

As part of our commitment, we produce an annual Diversity & Inclusion Summit for our Partners (employees). It's the one time of the year where Partners from all of our Regional Diversity Leadership Councils come together from across Texas to engage in a day of education, conversation and connection.

Each year we seek out top industry experts from around the country to present to our Partners. I first saw Michael Fosberg and his one-man play at a diversity conference in Arlington, VA. I was captivated by not only his talent as an actor, but also by the message he carried regarding identity. Although his story is truly unique, it has a profound effect on you—no matter what your race or ethnic identity. He uses his abilities as an actor to draw out his very personal experience and connect with the audience, leaving a lasting impression.

When I started planning the 2014 Summit, Michael was the first presenter I reached out to. I knew that I had to bring him to Texas. Our theme this year was “Explore. Discover. Connect.” and having Michael kick-off the day set the tone for the rest of the Summit. Based on survey results, *Incognito* was the top presentation of the day and our Partners truly found great value in his presentation. Partners are still talking about his play a month later and it has continued the dialogue of just how important diversity and inclusion really is.

At the heart of his play is diversity training—it's simply in a different format. I recommend Michael Fosberg to any organization wanting to bring top talent with an out-of-the-box style. As I said to our Partners when I introduced Michael, you are truly in for a treat.

I wish Michael and *Incognito* continued success.

Best,

Sonia Quirino Canales
Diversity Manager, H-E-B