



Sage Chase and Susan Woods, photo by Joan Eaton

## Sage Chase and Susan Woods Host Neurodiversity Conversation

October 22, 2024

Sherry Williams

On October 22, 2024, Susan Woods and Sage Chase, experienced educators and counselors, led a two-hour interactive discussion about neurodiversity and its impact on diversity, inclusion, and equity (DEI). The program was held in the Adventures in Learning classroom in Lethbridge Lodge.

Susan and Sage explained that as society's worldview broadens, we are learning more about the diverse ways in which humans experience and react to their environment. In the past, behaviors that deviated from "normal" were pathologized, and individuals exhibiting these behaviors were devalued. The terminology used to describe these behaviors and the attitudes toward individuals exhibiting the behaviors have evolved significantly. Today, the emphasis is on understanding differences, valuing neurodiverse individuals, and helping them cope with being in the minority.

The information Susan and Sage shared sparked questions from attendees, and many shared personal experiences. Each attendee received a handout that listed discussion takeaways and recommended resources for further learning, including books, movies, TV series, neurodiverse support communities, information for parents, and practical resources that help support differences in communication, sensory processing, and accessibility.

Attendees expressed interest in the possibility of other programs on this topic.

Want to find out about upcoming AIL programs or AIL membership benefits? Visit the [Adventures in Learning website](#) and explore the possibilities!

Have an idea for a future AIL program? Use [this form](#) to let us know!