



Quest for Community: A Call to Action

Friday, April 18, 2008

Why Do You Know What You Know? Exploring Diverse Ways of Knowing
Call for Proposals

Conference Information

On Friday, April 18, 2008, Wright State University (WSU) will host *Quest for Community: A Call to Action*. The Quest Conference is an annual, state-wide conference that explores diversity issues in higher education. The purpose of the conference is to bring together students, faculty, staff, and community to encourage an understanding of and commitment to diversity issues as well as offer opportunities to exchange resources related to diversity enhancement. The eighth annual conference will continue to explore ongoing efforts to create inclusive environments, programs and curricula; initiatives to improve campus climate; and opportunities for educational access and success, especially for traditionally underrepresented populations.

The Quest for Community keynote speaker will be **Dr. Nadinne Cruz**. For more than 25 years, Dr. Cruz has advanced service learning nationally and internationally. As Executive Director of the Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs, Dr. Cruz led 18 colleges and universities to develop community-based learning programs. Dr. Cruz is also the former Director of the Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford University and was the Eugene M. Lang Visiting Professor at Swarthmore College. Now an independent consultant, Dr. Cruz works with colleges and universities, national and state Campus Compacts, and the California State University system on service learning and civic education.

Conference Theme

The 2008 Quest for Community conference theme is “**Why Do You Know What You Know? Exploring Diverse Ways of Knowing.**”

The conference keynote address, presentations, and conference attendees will address the following questions:

- How can we critically understand the many sources and meanings of our personal knowledge and challenge our own preconceptions?
- What kinds of dialogues need to take place to broaden our understandings of what constitutes knowledge?
- Are certain kinds of knowledge privileged and/or marginalized? How do we expand the types of knowledge that are examined and valued both inside and outside the academy?
- How have new technologies changed our understanding of what “knowledge” is and whether it is trustworthy?
- How do we prepare ourselves and our institutions/agencies to engage in meaningful community-university partnerships and service learning opportunities?
- What are the existing strengths of our knowledge communities and how can we build on these strengths?

Proposal Criteria

- All proposals will be peer-reviewed and screened in a blind process. Information that would identify presenters or their affiliations should only be included on the first page of the application, not in the proposal abstract or narrative.
- All successful proposals will have a connection to the 2008 theme and will present new perspectives to understanding diversity and community in higher education. In addition, successful proposals will offer concrete steps or an action plan for positive change that individuals or groups in attendance at the presentation will be able to pursue. The latter criterion is a reflection of a *call to action*, one of the conference missions.
- The Selections Committee welcomes proposals related to any dimension of diversity including—but not limited to—multiculturalism, race/ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socio-economic status, disability, age, and access to higher education.
- All proposals should be typed, with all fields answered.
- Proposals can be papers, presentations, workshops, performances, or other creative modes of promoting the education and acceptance of diversity in an academic environment.
- Proposals can be submitted by individuals or groups composed of students, faculty, staff, community members, and other combined groups.
- Presenters must register as conference attendees and may attend free of charge. Registration forms will follow at a later date at www.wright.edu/quest.
- Specific time requests for presentations can not be guaranteed. Persons submitting proposals must be able to present in the morning or afternoon sessions.
- Priority will be given to student-led proposals and proposals that offer unique perspectives around the 2008 theme. The Selections Committee will also ensure that accepted presenters represent multiple institutions of higher education and various community organizations, when possible.

Proposal Submission

- Download a presentation application online at www.wright.edu/quest.
- All proposals must be received by Wright State University by **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 20, 2008.**
- Proposals can be submitted electronically to jason.bickford@wright.edu, by fax at (937) 775-5527, or by mail:

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