



Quest for Community: A Call to Action

Friday, April 17, 2009

Art and Innovation: Diverse Visions of Community

Call for Proposals

Conference Information

On Friday, April 17, 2009, Wright State University (WSU) will host *Quest for Community: A Call to Action*. We are pleased to announce the call for proposals for the ninth annual Quest for Community Conference. Higher education professionals, students, and community members from across the state will gather to begin conversations regarding race, gender, and class via artistic and innovative explorations that engage the whole person; explore initiatives to improve campus climate; and strategize opportunities for educational access and success, especially for traditionally underrepresented populations.

The Quest for Community keynote speaker will be **Nikki Giovanni**. Ms. Giovanni, a Distinguished Professor of English, has been a faculty member at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA since 1987. Apart from teaching writing and literature, she has also successfully parlayed her skills and talents into notable works that are mostly inspired by African American activists and artists. In 2004, Giovanni was nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album for “The Nikki Giovanni Poetry Collection.”

Conference Theme

The 2009 Quest for Community conference theme is “**Art and Innovation: Diverse Visions of Community.**”

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

- How is a sense of art and innovation relevant to the academic disciplines?
- How can art and innovation inspire the STEM fields to benefit the community?
- How are art and the process of scientific discovery linked?
- How are art and/or innovation employed in the work of the disciplines to create community and enhance the quality of community life?
- How can art and innovation be used to forge connections among disconnected individuals within a community?
- How can we broaden our notion of art and innovation in order to accurately reflect the great diversity of a community?
- How can art serve as a vehicle for difficult conversations about gender, race, class, and sexual identity in our community?
- How is our vision of community restricted by notions of what art is and who is an artist?

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 2009 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 2009 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 Monday, January 12, 2009**.
- Proposals can be submitted electronically to jane.schelb@wright.edu, by fax at (937) 775-5527, or by mail:

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