

**Multicultural Affairs and Community Engagement  
Report to Board of Trustees  
November 2014**

Community Engagement and Diversity Awards

The Dayton Unit NAACP presented Wright State University and Dr. Kimberly Barrett with their Community Outreach Award. It is in recognition of “Living Your Values” by promoting citizen and employee engagement in the community to enhance the quality of life of all Americans.

Minority Access, Inc., in Washington D.C. presented Wright State University with an award for our commitment to diversity. In addition, Minority Access presented Dr. Gary LeRoy, Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Admissions at the Boonshoft School of Medicine, an Administrator Role Model award.

Diversity and Community Engagement Data

The Office of Pre-College Programs conducts an evaluation of their programs and trends on regular intervals. Data indicates that both the Discovery program and residential summer programs serve a diverse group of students including Caucasian, African American, Asian and Hispanic students. More male than females participated in the Discovery program. In contrast to the Discovery program, the residential summer program enrolled predominately female students. Across the last three years the vast majority of respondents (91%) agreed that the summer enrichment programs contributed to their child’s learning and most (85%) would recommend the programs to others. A similar percentage of survey respondents would recommend this program to others (86%). Lastly, the Upward Bound program is federally funded and is geared toward those who meet eligibility requirements (first generation or low-income). The 6-week instructional experience was attended by African American, Caucasian and Hispanic students; females outnumbered males 2 to 1. Students overwhelmingly found the residential tutor assistants to be friendly, supportive, and enthusiastic, and believed that the program would likely help them be successful next school year. Over 92 percent would recommend the program to others. In summary, our Pre-College Programs serve a diverse group of students in our community and provide these services well so that attendees and their parents are likely to recommend the programs to others and utilize the programs repeatedly.

Programming and Events

The following are a few examples of the many programs and activities in which Division offices have been engaged since the last report.

AHNA’s programming for Hispanic Heritage Month continued in October, reaching over 450 students, faculty, and staff. A documentary, “*Tales Beyond Solitude*,” presented a rare

interview with master story teller and Nobel Prize winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez. A lecture by Dr. Xochitl Bada, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Illinois at Chicago, focused on Mexican Hometown Associations as grass-roots philanthropic communities. Students found the information enlightening and appreciated learning about ways to establish such organizations for community impact. As with last year's event, the Multicultural Halloween Celebration reached many people – the children connected with Rowdy Raider, and the cultural quiz provided a means for increasing cultural awareness as well as winning prizes!

The Bolinga Center staff presented the *Tunnel of Oppression* - reaching 726 students. This is an interactive program (including video, audio clips, newspaper articles, posters, live actors) about injustice in America. The focus was on oppression via sexism, racism, HIV/AIDS, genocide, economic differences and physical appearance. The tunnel is designed to challenge perceptions and break down barriers which divide those who do from those who do not live it. Counseling and Wellness Services staff were available for students immediately after their participation. The tunnel exhibit was accompanied by two special lectures by Amber Vlasnik, director of the Women's Center, who discussed women's issues, and John Rogers, coordinator of student success initiatives, who discussed issues involving race.

Bolinga is partnering again this year with Dr. Jaqueline Bergdahl and her Applied Behavioral Sciences research methods course to conduct student exit interviews to investigate their reasons for not returning to WSU. They will draw from a data set of 2166 students who were either dismissed or did not return to WSU. A convenience sample of students who vary in demographics and majors (i.e., and colleges) will be contacted by telephone for potential participation; calls are ongoing.

The Women's Center and Office of Student Activities premiered its *Confidence U* movie in October. The project was funded by a national grant from the Kappa Delta Foundation. Approximately 50 students, faculty and staff attended the film viewing. Those in attendance were given an opportunity to answer questions about confidence. Their answers to these questions, the video and a facilitation guide will be shared with Girl Scouts of Western Ohio. The Center submitted the names of children (whose parents are our students) to Hannah's Treasure Chest for consideration. If selected, the children will receive holiday toys and clothes from Hannah's! The first discussion of the Center's Fall reading selection, *Orange is the New Black*, by Pieper Kiernan, was held. The discussion centered on privilege, lookism, racism, and sexuality, among other issues. The discussion will continue in November.

Pre-College Programs sent a call for proposals from WSU faculty and staff for the Discovery (day) and Residential (overnight) programs with the goal of increasing participation in developing programming for our pre-college population (K-12). The Upward Bound program is currently accepting applications from 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade Dayton Public School students. This program admitted four new students and tutored approximately 10 Upward Bound students across several days in October. The Director gave a presentation to over 225 students at

Thurgood Marshall High School to pique interest and encourage participation in the Upward Bound program.

The Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement is a new part of the Division. The Center's mission is to prepare students for active participation in our democratic society. Service learning courses engage faculty, students, and community members to achieve academic learning objectives, meet community needs, and promote civic responsibility. Courses are offered across disciplines ranging from the English Department to the Boonshoft School of Medicine. The interim Director submitted a proposal in collaboration with Sinclair Community College to participate in a 3-year initiative focusing on Economic Inequality. The proposal was accepted. Wright State University and Sinclair were one of 30 partnerships collected to be part of the initiative.

### Community Engagement Activities

There are 27 service learning courses offered this Fall which provide opportunities for our students to learn while providing service of benefit to the community. Some of the activities in which they were engaged included tutoring youth, coaching youth involved in community organizations, testing water quality, serving as a playground buddy to facilitate constructive engagement on school playgrounds and in lunch rooms, and completing field practicum in social work.

The Vice President of Multicultural Affairs & Community Engagement is collaborating with community centers and libraries in the Greater Dayton area to conduct listening sessions with community members regarding overcoming barriers to attending Wright State and challenges communities face that Wright State faculty, staff and students might partner with them to address. The first two meetings in October were held at the Ahiska Turkish Community Center and the Dayton View Branch of the Dayton Metro Libraries.