

**Multicultural Affairs & Community Engagement**  
**Report to the Board of Trustees**  
**November 2015**

The following are a few highlights of the activities undertaken by staff in the Division since our last report to the Board.

Welcoming Students, Faculty and Staff Back to Campus

To help create a sense of belonging and to promote a culture of inclusion on campus, in September offices within the division held several open houses and a multicultural welcome event. The Asian and Native American Center, Women's Center, Bolinga Center and LGBTQA Affairs offices all held open houses that provided an opportunity for those new to campus to learn about the services they provide and for those returning to reconnect, network and become acquainted with those new to our campus community.

The Division held its annual Multicultural Welcome that was well attended by representatives from across the University. The event opened with a Native American flute performance. Dr. Hopkins shared remarks and two awards were presented. The first was the Goldenberg Quest for Community Award which is given each year to a campus organization/unit that demonstrates commitment and success in the enhancement of the campus climate for diversity. The 2015 recipient was Wright State University's Allies, an organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning and ally faculty and staff. The Division honored one of its own, Women's Center student assistant, Michelle Conner, with the Wright Stuff Award for going above and beyond in providing customer service and modeling inclusion.

Ohio Consortium of Multicultural Centers Meets on Campus

On October 11, representatives from 18 colleges/universities in Ohio spent the day at Wright State University who served as the host institution for the Ohio Consortium of Multicultural Centers in Higher Education (OCMCHE) Fall 2015 Conference. The theme was "Topics of Diversity to Inform and Educate." The OCMCHE was founded in 2008 by Mai Nguyen, director of Wright State University's Asian and Native American Center. She served as its first president. The mission of the OCMCHE is to partner with colleges/universities in Ohio to share information and to enhance our work in diversity for the benefit of our institutions and our respective local communities.

The Vice President for Multicultural Affairs & Community Engagement welcomed conference participants while the Director of LGBTQA Affairs provided one of the thought provoking workshops held during the day.

## Year of the Active By-Stander Events

Jackson Katz, one of America's leading anti-sexist activists and internationally recognized for his groundbreaking work in gender violence prevention education, spoke at Wright State on Oct. 13 as part of the University's Year of the Active Bystander program. Katz' talk was entitled "Men, Women, Sex and Violence".

An educator, author, filmmaker and social theorist, he is co-founder of the multiracial, mixed-gender Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) program at Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society. Founded in 1993, MVP was one of the first programs to use the "bystander" model for gender violence prevention. Katz is one of the key architects of the bystander approach.

Elaine Diaz Rodriguez, a Cuban blogger and educator, also visited WSU in September as part of the Year of the Active Bystander. Elaine discussed changes that are currently happening in Cuba and what normalization between the U.S. and Cuba after more than 50 years of embargo means to the people of the island of Cuba. Her talk on "Cuba, in an Era of Changes" drew about 100 people at WSU. Besides Elaine's talks at WSU, she also spoke at the Dayton World Council.

## Community Engagement

A few highlights of our numerous community engagement activities:

The Director of the Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center reported that student organizations associated with the Center provided the following community service during September and October:

The student campus chapter of the NAACP helped build homes with Habitat for Humanity

Association of Black Business Students provided tutoring, mentoring and social support to youth participating in the Boys and Girls Club of Dayton

The African American Residential Caucus participated in the Alzheimer's Walk

All of the associated student organizations participated in the Hunger Cup Campaign, a fundraising competition between WSU and UD that involved collecting food and funds to help end food insecurity, helping Wright State win the competition

The Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity volunteered with youth in Daybreak Dayton, an emergency shelter for runaway and homeless youth

Precollege programs distributed parent assessments of the Discovery/Odyssey program, residential camps and institutes, Exploring STEM and Upward Bound in September. Results

will be included in the program's annual report. They also conducted orientation sessions for parents, students and instructional staff involved in fall workshops, tutoring and cultural enrichment activities that are part of the Upward Bound program, a federally funded grant program designed to help would be first generation, low income students aspire to and succeed in post-secondary education.

#### Workplace Diversity Award

On October 26 at the annual Friendship Dinner of the National Conference for Community and Justice of Greater Dayton, Wright State University was presented with the 2015 Workplace Diversity Award by the president of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce.

#### Planning

The Division held two, one-day planning retreats. The first was held for Division directors in September at the Vice President's home. It addressed team building, refocusing on the mission and vision of the University and Division and setting priorities for the academic year. In October approximately 60 administrators, faculty and graduate students from around the institution spent the day at Aileron conference center examining diversity data about where we are now in terms of goals in this area, visioning where we would like to be and doing a gap analysis. We ended the day by generating some innovative strategies for closing the gap and making progress on our goals in order to help accomplish the University's strategic plan and vision. Next steps will be to distribute a draft 3 year plan of action related to diversity and community engagement for comment by the University community, then finalize the plan and implement the plan.