

Report to the Wright State University Board of Trustees
Submitted by the Division of Multicultural Affairs and Community Engagement
September 8, 2016

DIVERSITY TRAININGS

Staff in the Division of Multicultural Affairs and Community Engagement continued their involvement in diversity related trainings to campus and community groups. In April a training for the Jefferson Township Fire Department was held where the fire department staff was taught to look “beyond bias” in order to improve community outreach. Members of the MACE staff also led a diversity training during the YWCA’s “Stand Against Racism” Event on April 28th. Residents of the YWCA were led in a discussion about several diversity issues as well as a lecture on the “Year of the Active Bystander”, a Multicultural Affairs and Community Engagement initiative that demonstrates how to respond productively to prejudice encountered in daily interactions.

DIVERSITY PROGRAMMING

The following are just a few examples of the cultural programming offered by the staff in the division of Multicultural Affairs and Community Engagement:

Women’s History Month (March) & Asian Heritage Month (April)

Wright State observed Women’s History Month and Asian Heritage Months in March and April with a wide variety of events including film screenings, speakers, workshops and poster displays. All events were free and open to the public. These events were well attended with audiences ranging in size from 15 to 400. Examples of events follow:

- International Women’s Day, A Taste of Peace: A tea and coffee tasting for women (faculty, staff, and students) on campus was held to celebrate the holiday.
- Women’s History Month Scholar in Residence: Dr. Victoria Pitts-Taylor presented “Feminism, Science, and Corporeal Politics”. In her lecture she examined how power and inequality are entangled with bodies, particularly neurobiological bodies—those defined in relation to the brain and nervous systems.
- The Sister Accord Leadership Workshop-: featuring Sonia Jackson Myles, founder of the The Sister Accord, which has become a global movement centered on the power of loving, trusting and loyal relationships in transforming every aspect of the lives of girls and women. The workshop included sessions on “...bringing your dreams to life.”
- Discover Islam Poster Display: - A week long display of thirty large posters in the Multicultural Lounge to share information about Islam and Muslim Women received many visitors and positive comments. At the request of Muslim students, the Asian and Native American Center plans to display the posters again during the 2016-2017 academic year.

- **Chinese Brush Painting Workshop:** - Dr. Yufeng Wang, History professor at Sinclair Community College and Chinese brush painter, shared the history of Chinese brush painting and guided them through painting various pieces. All attendants of the workshop enjoyed this unique painting experience brought to Wright State. (Presented in collaboration with the Office of LGBTQA Affairs.)
- **Asian Culture Night** - It was another year of success for the Asian Culture Night which attracted over 400 people. The ethnic folk dances and fashion show were outstanding this year and received much praise from the audience along with the excellent PowerPoint translations of the songs and beautiful graphics representing each featured country. President David Hopkins sent a very warm pre-recorded greeting message to the audience

Office of LGBTQA Affairs First Community Scholarship Awarded

After reviewing the LGBTQA Community Scholarship applications, the LGBTQA Affairs advisory board chose Mitchell Martini as its recipient of the first “official” LGBTQA Community scholarship. Martini was awarded a \$500 scholarship.

Ohio Civil Rights Commission Hearings

The Ohio Civil Rights Commission meeting was held on Thursday, April 7, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Atrium of the Student Union with 170 attendees participating. New this year was having the hearings video recorded by Dayton Access Television (DATV). The Commissioners heard cases on disability discrimination; racial harassment, racial discrimination, hostile work environment and retaliation; and sex discrimination, harassment and retaliation. Immediately following the hearings, a luncheon was held for the Commissioners, community partners, faculty, and staff of WSU. Dr. Carmen Culotta, Instructor in the Department of Psychology at Wright State University, was the keynote speaker and presented a lecture on "Implicit Bias: What is it? And how can it lead to systemic discrimination?"

Film Screening of Between Two Worlds at NCORE 2016

The screening of BETWEEN TWO WORLDS –PART 1 & 2, a film that Mai Nguyen, director of the Asian and Native American Center, helped create, was a huge success. It was screened before members of an NCORE conference record audience of 3,000. The film received excellent evaluations with the audience relating to the immigrant stories of displacement, challenge, and assimilation. Many requested film screenings at their schools, and it was necessary to expedite production of the DVD to send to other schools wishing to screen the film. The NCORE conference was also attended by ANA center staff and members: Mia Honaker, Amber Ankrom (President-elect of the Association of Native American Students) and Courtney Dang (Vice President of the Asian Student Association).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

The Women's Center had its largest turnout for this event yet, hosting over 121 children and 80 mentors/femtors. Children and parents could participate in events such as *Green Screen for Kids*: utilizing photographic techniques to transport kids back in time, *Yoga Play*: learning yoga moves and how to keep your body healthy, and *Deaf People Evented What?!*: basics of American Sign Language and inventions that came about because deaf people had a hand in them. There were over 25 sessions to choose from and all had a great experience on the Wright State campus.

Summer Learning Opportunities

The Office of Pre-College Programs offered a wide variety of summer learning opportunities which began on June 5 with the Discovery/Odyssey Program. Over 1100 students participated in the programs. The Discovery/Odyssey programs are designed for K-9th grade students learning about: science, mathematics, foreign languages, the arts, the humanities, and computer technology. Classes were held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with extended care available. Course options were available for students identified by Gifted and Talented students.

Youthworks

Youthworks, sponsored by the Ohio Department of Jobs and Families, provides funding for the students who are placed in jobs on campus. This year 23 students were placed in jobs throughout campus. A recognition program is planned for October 5 to thank WSU faculty and staff who hosted an Upward Bound student as part of the Youth Works Program.

Making Ends Meet National Forum

The Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement held a Making Ends Meet National Issue Forum about economic insecurity and inequality. Approximately 80 students, faculty, staff and community members participated. During the Forum data was collected and submitted to the Kettering Foundation that also focused on the topic. Data will be compiled from forums held on this topic at a national level and national results will be reported at a later date. This connection with the Kettering Foundation will also result in future National Issue Forums being held at Wright State during the upcoming academic year.

Neighborhood School Initiative: Westwood K-8

The Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement met with a Steering Committee to guide the development of Westwood as a Neighborhood School Center and met two-thirds of the teachers. To accomplish this the SL-CE staff developed materials to inform teachers, families and community residents about what a Neighborhood School is and programs and services that might be offered. This information came from community schools in Cincinnati, Dayton and Portland, Oregon. This process puts WSU in contact with teachers, service providers and community residents

AWARDS

LGBTQA Affairs Community Development, Advocacy, & Innovation Awards

The Office of LGBTQA Affairs celebrated 11 LGBTQ & Ally graduates and awarded their Community Development, Advocacy & Innovation awards at the Annual Lavender Celebration on April 13th, 2016. We were honored to celebrate and award the following recipients for their amazing contributions to the Wright State LGBTQ & Ally community:

- ✧ Community Development Award: Student – Mitchell Martini, Faculty/Staff – Joshua Scacco
- ✧ Advocacy Award: Student – Bethany Azemus, Faculty/Staff – Charles Beckley
- ✧ Innovation Award – Boonshoft Pride

Bolinga Annual Spring Awards and Graduation Ceremony

The Bolinga Center held its 40th Annual Spring Awards and Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday, April 20. (200 attendees). This annual event is an opportunity to recognize student accomplishment. Over 30 students (4 black students met requirement with 4:00 GPA and 25 with 3.0-3.95) were honored for their academic performance.