

Multicultural Affairs & Community Engagement
Report to Board of Trustees
April 2014

Diversity and Community Engagement Data

The Vice President for Multicultural Affairs & Community Engagement submitted the University's application for the Community Engagement classification by the Carnegie Foundation. The application requires evidence-based documentation of a university's mission, commitments, practices and policies related to mutually beneficial partnerships with its communities. The process began a year and a half ago and was a campus wide effort. We will be notified regarding the results of the application process in January 2015.

Programming and Events

The following are a few examples of the many programs in which staff have been engaged since the last report.

The Division of Multicultural Affairs & Community Engagement held its annual awards reception in March. President Hopkins provided opening remarks. The following people were honored during the ceremony:

Faculty Diversity Advocate Award – Dr. Julianne Weinzimmer
Staff Diversity Advocate Award – D.R. Fannin and Officer Kurt Holden
Student Diversity Advocate Award – Susan Ross
Engaged University Citizen Award – Dr. Paul Hershberger

MLK Jr. Distinguished Service Awards from the Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center:

Lifetime Achievement – Dr. James Dobbins
Undergraduate Student – Quanita McRoberts
Graduate Student – Christen Johnson
Faculty: Kevin Watt and Janeece Warfield
Staff – Charene Thornton
Dayton Community at Large – Lucy Owens

The Asian/Hispanic/Native American Center (AHNA) celebrated Asian Heritage Month with Asian Culture Night on March 29, 2014. This was a night of cultural explorASIAN through traditional folk dances, a colorful fashion show, and a multimedia theater production of *Desh – the Sights and Sounds of India*. The AHNA Center presented a lecture entitled *Adolescent Development Trajectories of Asian and Hispanic 1.5 and Second Generations* based on research by Dr. Lingxin Hao, professor of Sociology at Johns Hopkins University.

Brandon Yanak president of the Wright State University Accounting Club received a grant to increase the ethnic/racial diversity of Accounting Majors. He is working in collaboration with the Office of the Vice President for Multicultural Affairs & Community Engagement, the AHNA Center and the Bolinga Center with support from the organization's advisor Dr. Maggie Houston. The events this semester have been very successful. One event featured alumni Karen Gaines who discussed the accounting industry, the benefits of pursuing an accounting degree, and the importance of diversity to the future of accounting. A diverse group of 25 students attended the event.

The Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center coordinated many events during Black History Month including a lecture by Dr. Barbara Winslow, professor in the Secondary Education and Women's and Gender Studies Program at Brooklyn College (City University of New York) about Shirley Chisholm; a lecture presentation by Dr. Hasan Kwame Jeffries entitled *Civil Rights and Civil Wrongs*; and several presentations by Wright State University students. The month culminated with a motivational conversation with Dr. Akpofure Peter Ekeh, Associate Professor of Surgery in the Boonshoft School of Medicine.

The Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center presented a lecture with Rocket Scientist and Inventor of the Super Soaker Water Gun, Lonnie Johnson on February 19. Mr. Johnson also started a company called Excellatron which is a leading developer in battery technology.

The Bolinga Center is also collaborating with several departments for our Minority Health Month Activities in April. They include the Women's Center, AHNA Center, Campus Recreation, the Wellness Center, Dayton Council on Health Equity, and Montgomery County Public Health. The campaign includes a poster series featuring administrators discussing what "jumpstarted" their healthy lifestyles.

The Women's Center presented *The Vagina Monologues* for the campus community. This student-organized event took place on February 6, 2014 in Schuster Hall. Fundraising totaled \$1,600 and benefited the Wright State Sexual Assault Prevention and Education Fund. The Center, along with African and African American Studies and the Women's Studies Program hosted the 13th annual Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality Symposium on February 21. This symposium featured keynote speaker Dr. Jakobi Williams. His presentation was entitled *From Fred Hampton to Barack Obama: Race, Class, Gender and the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party*. Dr. Williams is an associate professor of African American and African diaspora studies and history at Indiana University.

The Women's Center and Women's Studies Program co-hosted the fifth annual WSU Women's History Month Residency on March 12-13, 2014. Geraldine Moriba, Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion at CNN Worldwide, was the scholar in residence. In a national competition, the WSU Women's Center was chosen by Soapbox, Inc., the feminist speaker's bureau started by Amy Richards and Jennifer Baumgardner, to host

the second annual Anita Hill Lecture for Gender Justice. Ms. Moriba was funded as part of this lecture series.

The Women's Center Spring Reading Selection was *Dear Sister: Letters from Survivors of Sexual Violence*, an anthology which included a piece by Andrea Harris, English and Women's Studies faculty member at Wright State. On Thursday, March 27, 2014 the Women's Center and Women's Studies Program hosted a public reading and discussion with Andrea Harris, as well as Lisa Factora-Borchers, who edited the anthology. Almost 100 students, faculty, and staff attended the reading.

Community Engagement Activities

The Office of Pre-College Programs continues to be engaged in community with its Upward Bound programming, Miami Valley Camp Fair and Kids on Campus. Upward Bound instructors are preparing students for upcoming ACT and Ohio Graduation Tests. Upward Bound held its Parents Advisory Council meeting as well as a Global Awareness Workshop for the students. Pre-College Programs is currently preparing for its 2014 summer programming.

The keynote speakers have been selected for the 2014 Multicultural Millennium Conference. The event is set to take place September 25 and 26. The theme this year is E Pluribus Unum? Immigration and Migration in the U.S. The keynote speaker during the welcome reception is Sonia Nazario. Ms. Nazario has spent 20 years reporting and writing about social issues, most recently as a projects reporter for The Los Angeles Times. Her stories have tackled some of this country's most intractable problems: hunger, drug addiction, and immigration. She has won numerous national journalism and book awards. In 2003, her story of a Honduran boy's struggle to find his mother in the US, *Enrique's Journey*, won more than a dozen awards, among them the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing. The luncheon speaker on September 26 will be Margaret Stock. Ms. Stock focuses her practice on immigration and citizenship law. She is a nationally known expert on immigration and national security laws, and has testified regularly before Congressional committees on immigration, homeland security, and military matters. In 2013, Margaret was named a MacArthur Foundation Fellow ("genius grant" recipient) by the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for her work on the connection between immigration and national security.

The Vice President for Multicultural Affairs & Community Engagement is a founding member of the Higher Education Recruiting Consortium (HERC) comprised of institutions in Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. The Vice President made the opening remarks at the Lake Campus Regional Summit entitled, *Community Engagement: A Key to our Social, Political and Economic Health*. Among the many speeches and presentations given during February and March she gave a presentation at the Omicron Delta Kappa honor society Leader2Leader conference entitled, *Enlightened Leadership for the Multicultural Millennium*. In preparation for the University's reaccreditation efforts, the Vice President co-chairs the Federal Compliance/Obligations of Affiliation/Assumed Practices subcommittee.