Diversity Program Update

This fall the Equity and Campus Diversity Office programming initiative has experienced an influx of participants attending scheduled events. The Diversity Dialogue programs and Beyond Boundaries / Dare to be Diverse film series have experienced record number. The Equity and Campus Diversity Office attributes the success of our programs to the joint efforts, teamwork and partnerships developed on and off campus. Special thanks to the Communication Department, the Burchfield Penney Art Center, the Student Life Office, the Computer Information Systems Department, the Sociology Department, the Buffalo State Educational Opportunity Program, the Ann Frank Project, and Weigel Health Promotions.

“Much of the program focused on how we as people, tend to view different aspects of the internet based on cultural lenses. I found the program extremely interesting and informative. It allowed a clear, unbiased space in which students and faculty of Buffalo State shared and responded to different ideas and views. As the presenters questioned the audience of their views on the situation presented, I looked within myself and saw the ways that I had immediately categorized the situation based on my knowledge. Questions such as ‘why do you think this way?’ ‘Or why do you believe this happened?’ helped me dive deeper into what I know and draw from the lesson that everyone has some form of cultural bias within them, whether they are aware of it or not. However, it is our responsibility as individuals to look beyond those biases to see who a person truly is on the inside.”

Mass Media, Social Networking, and Technology

Diversity Dialogue Reflection - Shedeene Hewitt
Sexual Assault Awareness Program

I Love Consent! This is the phrase we hope to hear all over campus this year as the Equity and Campus Diversity Office launches our new sexual assault awareness campaign. This campaign stems from many sources: the first and foremost being Buffalo State’s dedication to eradicating sexual assault and protecting the rights of all members of our community. This initiative is also inspired by the conversation going on at the state and federal levels about how to address the problem of sexual assault on college campuses.

Title IX and other federal laws require colleges and universities to have sexual assault prevention and education programs. At the state level earlier this month, Governor Cuomo called upon SUNY to adopt a uniform set of policies and practices for sexual assault response and prevention on campus. Chancellor Nancy Zimpher accepted the Governor’s call to action. She charged all SUNY institutions of higher education with adopting a uniform practice standard regarding this concern. With this new campaign adding to the efforts that already exist on campus, Buffalo State is poised to be at the forefront of SUNY’s new policies.

The I Love Consent campaign will consist of consent-themed workshops, publications, and campus-wide awareness raising events. The concept of affirmative consent (that anything other than an enthusiastic yes is not consent to sexual activity) is very important, and is gaining more and more ground nationwide. This concept is strongly featured in I Love Consent. Our office will be collaborating with various departments on campus including the Judicial Affairs office, the Dean of Students Office, Weigel Health Promotions, the Communication Department, the Ann Frank Project, The Residence Life Office, and Campus Police. We believe that this is an issue that needs to be tackled from all sides. Keep a lookout for our new logo, and for all things consent—because Buffalo State will not stand for sexual assault!

Congratulations to the October 2014 Minigrant Awardees
(Please stay tuned for advertisements for each of these programs)

Wisdomkeepers
Grant submitted by: Evelyn (Santiago) Rosario
Educational Opportunity Program

7 Cajas (7 Boxes)
Grant submitted by: Dr. Bridget Chesterton
History and SSE

New World, New Wardrobe Project
Grant submitted by: Dr. Keun Young Oh
Fashion and Textile Technology

The Kenneth Thompkins Master Class and Lecture
Grant submitted by: Dr. Rick Fleming
Music Department

The Misappropriation of History: West African Soldiers and Wives in France’s Colonization of Morocco
Grant submitted by: Dr. Kenneth Orosz
History and SSE

The next available project submission date is Friday, February 13, 2015.
For additional information, please visit the following website: http://equity.buffalostate.edu/equity-and-campus-diversity-program-grants
Equity and Campus Diversity Student Ambassadors - Ashanti Bryant

Major: Sociology
Minor: Women and Gender Studies
Career Goals: To work in a university either in international education or in diversity/multicultural life
Experience I hope to gain as a Student Ambassador:
“"I'm a sophomore majoring in Sociology with a minor in women and gender studies. In the future, I hope to have a career in advocacy for equal rights. The diversity ambassador program helps me not only help out with a program I am passionate about, but gives me a jumpstart in working with equal rights for my future. It helps develop my communication and leadership skills which are vital in a career of advocacy. I am passionate about equality and that is what the Equity and Campus Diversity Program is all about. As long as I am helping people, I feel I am the happiest I can be.”

Equity and Campus Diversity Student Ambassadors - Joseph Wreh

Major: English
Career Goals: Poet, Writer, Musician, Screenwriter, Teacher
Experience I hope to gain as a student Ambassador:
“Born in Ghana, Africa, I found myself at Buffalo State in 2010 pursuing a degree in English. I aspire to delve into various career fields such as creative, musical and poetic writing and teaching.

I chose to serve as a student ambassador for the Equity and Campus Diversity Office because I truly respect the mission statement of the office. In compliance with the affairs of the Equity & Diversity Office, I hope to gain a more conscious understanding of what it takes to spread awareness. College campuses are filled with young men and women in need of enlightenment in regards to social issues that affect individuals all over the world. The Equity and Diversity Office offers an opportunity to assist in its campaign for awareness that can positively influences people of various ages, nationalities and socioeconomic backgrounds. I truly wish to gain a greater sense of commitment to an effort that can broaden the minds of people who are not fortunate enough to overcome the burden of ignorance. Gaining an opportunity to be a part of something greater than myself is a major reason for my involvement with the Equity and Campus Diversity Office.”
“Difference is of the essence of humanity. Difference is an accident of birth and it should therefore never be the source of hatred or conflict. The answer to difference is to respect it. Therein lies a most fundamental principle of peace: respect for diversity.”

- John Hume
Equity and Campus Diversity Graduate Intern - John Roberts

**Major:** Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration M.S.

**Career Goals:** “To become the vice president of student affairs and eventually the president of an institution that best fits my values and leadership philosophy. I believe it is important to be able to connect with students and foster faculty and student relationships.

As a second-year graduate student at Buffalo State; I would like to become more involved in working with a diverse population and raise multicultural awareness amongst staff and students. Diversity and inclusion aides in offering a supportive campus climate which... students become successful. Without a student affairs office it would be rather difficult task for students to adjust to the campus climate and find where they fit in. A student affairs office can help teach and develop core values. My commitment to student success is strong and it is my firm belief that my experiences working in the Equity and Campus Diversity Office will take me far!”

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**Equity and Campus Diversity Program Calendar**

**November**

**Beyond Boundaries / Dare to be Diverse Film Series**
- Thursday, November 13, 2014 6:30pm – 8:30pm
  - Burchfield Penney Art Center
  - Featured Film – *15 to Life: Kenneth’s Story*
  - Event co-sponsors: Buffalo State Communication Department and the Burchfield Penney Art Center

**Diversity Dialogue – Gender Myths**
- Tuesday, November 18, 2014 6:00pm – 7:30pm
  - Simultaneous Sessions
    - The Myths of Manhood: *defining what it means to be a man*
    - The Myth of Womanhood: *defining what it means to be a woman*
  - This event will be held in Assembly Halls 1 & 2 on the second floor of the Campbell Student Union

**Celebration of Cultures** – Thursday, November 20, 2014, 11:00am – 4:00pm *(Canceled)*
Last book read: “I just finished the biography of Chaim Potok.” by Rabbi Chaim Potok

Something few know about me:
I collect toy soldiers and have about one hundred thousand. Some are museum quality while others are just cool plastic ones from almost every period of history. I told you I am a geek.

What is your favorite quote? “This too shall pass”

If you could have dinner with anyone, (fictional, alive, dead famous, non-famous) who would it be? “If I could have dinner with anyone it would be Maurice Duplessis (1890-1959), the former premier of Quebec. He was an interesting man.”

Ability I wish I had: “I wish I could speak foreign languages and play the trumpet.”

Always wanted to try: “I always wanted to try czarnina (Polish ducks blood soup) but never really got the courage. Once I was told it was chocolate soup, had the spoon to my lips and realized what it was. To be honest I did get a little taste but could not do any more.”

Hobbies, talents, special interests: “I am fascinated by French Canada. I would like to write about Buffalo history (have a couple ideas but need the time). I also write fiction in my spare time. When I grow up I hope to be known as a writer from Buffalo.”

Favorite sports or pastimes: “I like hockey and am glad Mr. Pegula has the Sabres. I also own a bar, a private club and that takes up a lot of my time.”

Would you do anything different if given the opportunity? (Personally or professionally) “If I could do one thing differently it would have to be being a better student when I was younger. Had I taken studies more seriously I might have gone on for a Ph.D. in history but my interests have always been too varied to concentrate on any one period or epoch.”

If I won the lottery: “If I won the lottery I would be Buffalo’s biggest benefactor.”

Tell me about someone who has influenced your decision to work in higher education? “Bill Webster and Bob Stark were former teachers of mine. They were great men and role models. If I can touch half the people they did I will be a very successful man.”

What might (someone) be surprised to know about you? “People would be surprised that I am not a morning person, since starting at BSC in 2001 I have had MWF classes starting at 8. One young woman told the history secretary that ‘Golombek and coffee at eight is enough to wake me up.’ If she only knew.”

What I like best about working for Buffalo State: “I love the students at BSC. I have made several friends and helped quite a few with jobs after (and before) graduation.”

Before I die, I would like to: “Before I die I hope to write those books…”

What I fear most: “I fear a zombie apocalypse. I am a Walking Dead fan. I said I was a dork!!!”

I’m proudest of: “I am proudest of the notes I from former students. One young man I taught in high school became one of Buffalo’s ten most wanted. Years later he sent me a note that he was turning his life around and thanked me for being the only teacher who ever believed in him.”

Previous Work Experience: “I serve on the City of Buffalo Common Council, own a bar and teach at BSC. Prior to that I taught high school social studies. College is so much more fun because you teach history instead of teach for a regents exam at the end of the year.”

The Top 3 Highlights of my Life: “My three life highlights would be getting elected to the City of Buffalo Common Council, earning two Master’s Degrees (not bad for a first generation son of an immigrant) and getting hired by Dr. E.O. Smith to teach at Buffalo State. Where else could I get paid to do something I love?”