



CENTER FOR MULTICULTURAL EXCELLENCE

Promoting Excellence through Diversity and Positive Intergroup Relations



COLLECTIVE VOICES

THE E-NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTER FOR MULTICULTURAL EXCELLENCE-OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AT DU

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MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE PROVOST

The staff of the Center for Multicultural Excellence would like to introduce you to *Collective Voices*, the new E-newsletter of the Center for Multicultural Excellence. The objective of this newsletter is to increase communication about diversity and diversity-related issues with the University of Denver community. Over the last two years, we have come to realize that there are numerous diversity initiatives taking place on the campus, several of which are high profile and well-known. However, there are also numerous instances of individuals and groups at DU who are making a difference by undertaking diversity projects and events, but whose work is not known to the campus community. We hope to help highlight those initiatives as well as provide diversity resources online to the DU community. In subsequent newsletters we will be disseminating information, providing updates, announcements, opinion pieces, and research.

Jesús Treviño, Associate Provost, Multicultural Affairs

INTRODUCING...

Johanna Leyba, a Denver Native, is the new Associate Director for the Center for Multicultural Excellence. She received a B.A. in Sociology with an emphasis on Ethnic and Urban Studies from Colorado College and a Masters Degree in Urban and Regional Planning with a Community Development Emphasis from the University of Colorado at Denver.



While at Colorado College, she served as the Co-Chair for MeCha, helping Latinos understand self-identity and feel comfortable in private school atmospheres. She has also worked for Mi Casa Resource Center for Women; Adams County youth employment programs; and served as the Executive Director at La Clínica Tepeyac. As a strategic planner, her areas of expertise are fundraising, marketing/PR, volunteer recruitment, budget development and management. She currently serves on two advisory boards of Latino serving organizations. As a Denver native, Johanna has extensive ties to communities of color in the greater Denver community and has strong interest in supporting students of color in higher education.

UPCOMING EVENTS

~**"The Gathering"** for African American Faculty, Staff, Students and Alumni on November 11th, 2004 at 4:30pm in the Renaissance South Room

~**"Strategies for Completing the Dissertation"** Workshop for DU doctoral students, Wednesday, November 17, 2004 from 10:30am-noon in Ricketson College of Law

~**"How I Came to Live Out Loud"**- A One Woman Performance by **Kate Collins** from Arizona State University on November 18th, 2004 at 6:00pm

~**"The Light Still Shines"** Gala presented by The Spirituals Project on November 13th, 2004 at 8:00pm at the Newman Center for the Performing Arts

~For more information contact Mia Schutte at mschutt2@du.edu or 303.871.2270

Dara Lum is the new GLBTIQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, Intersex, Queer and Questioning) Outreach Coordinator at the Center for Multicultural Excellence.



As part of her job, she will also be coordinating SafeZone and the Voices for Discovery program (see the CME website for more details). Dara brings tremendous experiences to the Center. She received her B.A. in political science and geology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and worked for several years for the Southern Environmental Law Center, a nonprofit environmental organization. Currently, Dara is in her second year at the DU College of Law and conducts research in feminist jurisprudence, same-sex marriage, and sexual assault.

Please stop by and say hello to the newest member of the CME family. If you would like to contact Dara, she can be reached at dlum06@law.du.edu or (303) 871-7650.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY

Dr. Frank Tuitt is an assistant professor of higher education with the University of Denver College of Education. This past year, he served as the Cabot Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the Bok Center for Teaching and Learning at Harvard University and a research associate for the Harvard National Campus Diversity Project led by Dr. Dean Whittle.

Dr. Tuitt is a co-editor and contributing author of the recently published book *Race and Higher Education: Rethinking Pedagogy in Diverse College Classrooms*. Dr. Tuitt's research explores how professors can re-conceptualize college teaching in light of the challenges brought about by increasingly racially diverse classrooms.

Dr. Tuitt is a former co-chair of the Harvard Educational Review and a 2003 Ed.D graduate from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. His dissertation, *Black Souls in an Ivory Tower: Understanding what it Means to Teach in a Manner that Respects and Cares for the Souls of African-American Graduate Students*, examined the pedagogical practices and learning conditions that African American graduate students identify as most beneficial to their learning. Dr. Tuitt received his B.A. from Connecticut College in 1987 and currently serves his alma mater as a member of its Board of Trustees.



Martha S. Santos recently joined the faculty at DU as Assistant Professor of Latin American History. She earned a B.A. in Psychology from the State University of New York, Albany; an M.A. in Latin American Studies from the University of Arizona, where she also earned a Ph.D. in Latin American History.

Born and raised in Quito, Ecuador, Maria has also studied in her native Ecuador as well as in Brazil. Her research, funded in part by the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, focuses on the relationship between social-economic pressures, violence and masculinity in the backlands of the Brazilian Northeastern state of Ceará during the nineteenth century. She has taught Spanish, Portuguese and English in various institutions in Arizona and Brazil, and Latin American History at the University of Arizona and at Cleveland State University in Ohio.

Maria Salazar-Jerez, a new faculty member in the DU School of Education, was born in Zacatecas, Mexico. Maria earned a bachelors degree from the University of Colorado at Denver where she also received the Harry S. Truman scholarship. In graduate school, Maria received a teaching certificate in secondary social studies and an M.A. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Denver.

After teaching Spanish, bilingual world history, advanced placement U.S. history, psychology, government, and Chicano history in urban schools; Maria then decided to pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where she earned a Ph.D. in bilingual and multicultural education. Maria is currently a clinical assistant professor for the Boettcher Teachers Program in the School of Education at DU, where she teaches Second Language Acquisition and Supporting English Learners across the Content Areas.



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NATIONAL SUMMER INSTITUTE ON "PROMOTING MULTICULTURAL EXCELLENCE IN THE ACADEMY"

The Center for Multicultural Excellence hosted a new and exciting summer institute that provided doctoral students of color and women with information to prepare them to enter the job market in academia. The four-day institute included seminars addressing strategies for completing the dissertation; preparing a curriculum vitae and cover letter; negotiating faculty contracts; balancing research; teaching and community service; understanding the tenure process; the importance and value of mentoring and networking; and navigating various employment obstacles and challenges.

Under the direction of Assistant Provost Fernando Guzman, the institute included 17 doctoral students of color and women from around the United States who came to visit DU and Denver, and to gain skills and insight otherwise not available to them. These students came from many of the top educational institutions in the country including Harvard University, Stanford University, University of California Berkeley, University of California at Los Angeles, University of Texas at Austin, Smith College, University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and the University of Denver.

The institute was very successful at incorporating a diverse group of students on multiple levels. The groups consisted of thirteen women, five men, three Asian Americans, five American Indian, two African Americans, six Latino/as and one Caucasian woman. The group represented a variety of disciplines including History, Spanish, Library Information Systems, Psychology, Education, and Political Science. The goal was to bring these highly qualified and sought out scholars to Denver with the hope they will eventually seek employment in Denver and at DU.

The next institute will take place this coming summer. For additional information, please contact Fernando Guzman, Ph.D. at fguzman@du.edu or at 303.871.7660.

SAFE ZONES

SafeZone is a program that is designed to raise awareness around issues related to the GLBTIQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, Intersex, Queer and Questioning) experience here on the DU campus. This program explores these issues using identity models, colloquial terms, as well as various interactive exercises. Used as an education or awareness tool, SafeZone is designed to bolster allies, and assist with creating a safe, inclusive campus for all regardless of their personal identities, communities, or values. Beginning January 2005, SafeZone training will be available for classes and departments at DU!

COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE SCHOLARS

Mission:

To create and sustain a dynamic community of student scholars designed to enhance academic and multicultural excellence, foster a network of talented and gifted students, and identify and utilize the talents of student scholars to make positive contributions to the DU community.

The University of Denver's Community of Excellence Scholars program was developed to create and sustain a dynamic community of student scholars with the objective of enhancing academic and multicultural excellence, fostering a network of talented and gifted students, and identifying and utilizing the talents of student scholars to make positive contributions to the DU community.

As part of the program, Scholars are paired up with a faculty or staff Collegiate Coach to work with them throughout the year. Scholars who are involved included Bridge, Daniels Fund, MLK, Native American, Nagel, and VIP. This is an exciting new endeavor and we are privileged to have these talented and gifted scholars as DU Pioneers. For additional information, please contact Niki Latino-Owens at nlaino@du.edu or at 303.871.2712.



Diversity and Unity Retreat 2004

Once again, CME hosted the successful Diversity and Unity Retreat October 1-3rd. Held at the YMCA of the Rockies Snow Mountain Ranch facilities, the retreat guided over 50 students through group activities designed to explore diversity issues; personal and social identity development; power and privilege; and the importance of gaining greater understanding of adversity of groups. All who attended shared in a unique opportunity to meet students from diverse backgrounds, build alliances and for developing a strategy for creating a more friendly climate at DU. Participants left committed to being DU Allies—individuals who agree to actively work against oppression for any and all they encounter at DU. The retreat is open to all students and held every Fall Quarter.

For more information, contact CME Assistant Director, Lamont Sellers at lsellers@du.edu or at 303.871.17659



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