



# 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

### MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PROVOST

Sixteen years ago I left Northern California and came to DU to begin my doctoral work in the College of Education Counseling Psychology Program. My initial perceptions of DU was that it lacked diversity. However, over the last few years my perceptions of this institution have continued to change having experienced DU move forward and make major contributions in the area of diversity.

With the support of Chancellor Ritchie, Provost Coombe, and Dr. Trevino, Associate Provost for Multicultural Affairs, I have been able to initiate state of the art work in the area of recruitment and retention of faculty of color. Most notably, this past summer, we piloted the **National Institute for Promoting Multicultural Excellence in the Academy**, an exciting new institute to increase the number of doctoral candidates of color and women entering the academy. This was a successful collaborative effort involving several departments as well as faculty from different areas of the University. Recently, the Center for Multicultural Excellence, in collaboration with the Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Research, initiated a similar series of workshops for DU doctoral candidates. As the Assistant Provost for Multicultural Faculty Recruitment and Retention, I want to thank Susan Lee, Amy King, Craig Rodrigue, Julanna Gilbert, Jim Moran, Mary Ann Danowitz Sagaria, and the many others who continue to support our efforts.

I look forward to continuing to work with members of the DU community in promoting excellence through diversity and positive intergroup relations.

### INTRODUCING CME STAFF

**M. Mia Schutte** is the new Administrative Assistant at the Center for Multicultural Excellence. Mia moved to Denver this past summer from Phoenix, Arizona where she completed her undergraduate work at Arizona State University. She received two Bachelors of Science degrees; one in Human and Family Development and the other in Human Communication emphasizing in Intercultural Communication. During her undergraduate career, Mia worked on numerous research teams ranging from Prevention Science to Adolescence Developmental Psychology. In addition to her research experience, she has also lived and studied abroad in Italy while also working with International Students in programs such as International Conversations partners and the Voices of Discovery Intergroup Dialogues Program. Her extracurricular activities include volunteering with St. Vincent DePaul to pilot an English as a Second Language program for families in the Phoenix metro area.



### FOCUS ON DU FACULTY AND STAFF

**Denise Dearson**, Assistant Dean, University College, also directs the College's Applied Communication, Human Resource Administration, and Organizational Leadership programs. A native of New York, Denise earned a B.A. in Humanities from Pace University, a M.S. in Education Administration from Concordia University, and a Ph.D. in Administration and Supervision, with a Higher Education emphasis from Marquette University. Denise is currently working with DU's Conflict Resolution Institute and the University of the West Indies on a project funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The overall goal of the project is to increase the capacity for community mediation in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (TT). She, along with colleagues Karen Feste (Conflict Resolution Center), Tamra Pearson d'Estree (Conflict Resolution Institute), Mary Jane Collier (Human Communication), and Ruth Parsons (Professor Emerita, GSSW), recently returned from a week-long trip to UWI to begin work on the three-year project. She plans to conduct joint research with faculty from UWI. Denise's research interests include organizational leadership, structures, and climate at the intersection of conflict resolution and transformation.

**Dell Vandever**, DU Pride Advisor and DU staff member, has worked with DU Pride, the University of Denver's undergraduate Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, Intersexed, Queer and Questioning (GLBTIQ) student group, since Winter Quarter 2002, and has served as their staff advisor since Fall 2002. As both a full-time staff member and part-time student at the University, she has brought a unique blend of experience to the group. Creating a safe environment for students on and off campus has been a priority during her time at DU offering them opportunities never thought possible. According to Dell, her joy comes from watching the group and its members grow and mature, knowing that they are all destined for something great.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**MLK Celebration Events:**  
~An Evening with the Filmmaker: **Orlando Bagwell**,  
Tuesday, January 18, 2005  
at 6:00 pm in  
Davis Auditorium-Sturm Hall

~Overcoming Our Racism  
Keynote Speaker  
**Derald Wing Sue, Ph.D.**  
Thursday, January 20, 2005  
at 6:00pm  
in the Driscoll Ballroom

~Diversity Summit 2005,  
Friday May 6th, 2005, "On  
Becoming an Ally"

### ANNOUNCING...

**CAMPUS CLIMATE  
COUNCIL**  
Grant Application  
Round Two

The CCC specifically seeks proposals that promote positive intergroup relations on campus via initiatives that bring different groups together to interact.

**Proposals DUE:**  
**Monday, Feb. 14, 2005**  
**by 4:30 PM**

Contact Johanna Leyba at  
jleyba2@du.edu for  
more information



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## CONGRATULATIONS!

**Lynne Valencia**, Director of Community Relations Channel 9News, DU MSS class of '95 will receive the 2004-2005 University of Denver Alumni Association's Community Service Award. The award is given to an individual who has been heavily and continuously involved in major community activities and charitable causes either as a professional or volunteer. Lynne, who also serves as the Chair of the DU Latino Alumni Association, will be honored at the 2005 DU Founders Day gala which will be held on Friday, February 25 at the Denver Marriott City Center. <http://www.alumni.du.edu/founders-day/>

**Niki Latino-Owens**, Multicultural Advisor, has done an *out-standing* job as the coordinator of the Community of Excellence Scholars program (a project enriching the experience of DU scholarship programs including the Daniels Fund). Niki has served as an ally for students, liaison to student organizations, and an advocate for diversity on campus. Moreover, she has participated and continues to serve as a facilitator, presenter, planning committee member, and supporter of the annual Diversity Summit and the Diversity and Unity Retreat. Niki is a graduate of the DU MA Program in Higher Education with an emphasis in Student Development.



**Dr. Oscar U. Somoza** and **Dr. Miriam Bornstein-Cómez** were named co-directors for the state of Colorado to coordinate academic research activities across the state involving historical and literary documents at university, public, and state archives. As "the world's biggest digital library of Spanish and Latin American texts," the Bibliotheca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes (Miguel de Cervantes Virtual Library,) has assembled an international team of scholars to develop a Chicano Culture Portal. The BVMC is an international library of Hispanic cultures that provides, among its many services, a substantial bibliographic database with online access to public and private archives. The BVMC has agreements with more than 70 institutions of higher education throughout Latin America, the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States including the University of California-Berkeley, Cornell, Harvard, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The development of the Chicano Culture Portal will provide worldwide access to digitalized texts, critical works, library catalogues and related links to online works. As such, it will be a window to Latino culture and literature and a valuable research source with the purpose of disseminating the Latino cultural heritage through literature, literary criticism, and historical texts at the national and international level.

## CAMPUS INITIATIVES

### SPIRITUALS PROJECT

The **Spirituals Project**, a nonprofit organization housed at DU is a broad based initiative to explore the many, varied dimensions of African American spirituals as art form, tradition and tool; and to invite all people to experience the joy and power of this dynamic music and gift from African Americans to the world. Our goal is to ensure that the spirituals will be passed on for many generations to come. For more information, contact Executive Director, Connie Rule at [crule@du.edu](mailto:crule@du.edu) or visit [www.spiritualsproject.org](http://www.spiritualsproject.org).

### CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN POLICY

The University of Denver **Center for African American Policy** is a unique blend of academics, public policy and community and public service. The Center was formed to encourage public discourse and to increase the flow of information on issues, policies and trends that affect African Americans. The goal of the Center is to work for and achieve a positive change in the present and future lives of African Americans through academics, the arena of public discourse and community and public service. For more information contact Veronica White at [vwhite@du.edu](mailto:vwhite@du.edu).

### CAMPUS CIRCLE

On Thursday November 18, 2004, the DU Center for Multicultural Excellence hosted a meeting of teams from colleges and universities throughout Colorado (and one from California) focusing on the conceptual and practical work being undertaken at DU in the area of diversity. The teams were particularly interested in DU intergroup relations and campus climate initiatives. The two day meeting also provided an opportunity for the participants to share innovative work taking place on their campuses. Representatives from California State University; Sacramento; CU-Boulder; Metropolitan State College of Denver; Colorado Mountain College, Glenwood Springs; CU-Denver; Colorado State University, Fort Collins; and the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley. One of the outcomes of the meeting was the formation of **C.I.R.C<sup>2</sup>.L.E. (Consortium for Intergroup Relations and Campus Climate Leadership and Education)**, a Western consortium housed at DU of the different participating institutions for promoting intergroup relations ideas, programs, research, and resources. Future plans for the consortium include a national meeting at DU. For more information, please contact Dr. Jesús Treviño at [jtreviso@du.edu](mailto:jtreviso@du.edu).



Consortium participants undergo diversity training, in a "body sculpting" activity.

## CME CONTACTS

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