Overview of DU DialogUes initiative
Rev. 12/2017

CLIE’s Inclusion & Equity Education program area (IEE, www.du.edu/studentlife/ie-education) is coordinating a range of learning and leadership opportunities for DU community, focused on dialogue as a skillset for engaging constructively across difference.

Rationale
There is a growing need for, and apparent lack of, skills for constructive engagement across difference:
- Particularly divisive 2016 US election cycle and ongoing formal and informal political fallout,
- increasing international tensions, and
- turbulent related campus reactions through 2016-17 year,
- including increased usage and conflict around Driscoll Wall,
- —with likely additional engagement on and beyond campus in foreseeable future.

Community-building, communication, and conflict resolution skills inherent in dialogue are fundamental to campus community, leadership development and public good impact. Dialogue skills training and application opportunities can:
- Build capacity for engaging critical issues and current events toward common good (leadership, IMPACT2025)
- Provide education and research opportunities (academic/scholarly pursuit)
- Build community and ultimately beyond campus (OneDU)

So, IEE is collaborating with on- and off-campus partners:
- the DU Conflict Resolution Institute at the Korbel School of International Studies (www.du.edu/conflictresolution) on sustained dialogue efforts.
- DU Communication Studies (www.du.edu/ahss/comm) on dialogue courses.
- DU Graduate School of Social Work (www.du.edu/socialwork): exploring graduate level dialogue course, perhaps with English Language Center (www.du.edu/elc), to focus on international issues.
- the Sustained Dialogue Institute (www.sustaineddialogues.org), to support facilitator training and program development
- DU Housing & Residential Education (HRE) for graduate staff support, and in-hall staff programming

To Date
- $3265 raised toward this initiative in 12/2016 DUgood crowdfunding effort (www.du.edu/dugood/?cfpage=project&project_id=13728)
- Hosted two Sustained Dialogue facilitator trainings (Jan and Sept 2017), and a retreat facilitator training (Oct 2017) –involving ~100 students, staff, faculty and alumns
• 2 sustained dialogue groups in spring 2017 (one faculty and one staff) 25 participants, including 5 facilitators
• 4 pilot intergroup dialogue courses focusing on gender (COMN 1015 in 2 winter 2017, 2 spring 2017), enrolling 55 undergraduate students, and providing professional experience for 2 doctoral instructors and 5 Master’s student facilitators
• Several one-time dialogue events, in collaboration with student organization- and unit-sponsored events (2 movies in winter/spring 2017, My Culture is Not A Costume in Oct 2017)
• Central DU pilot funding to hire two graduate coordinators. Partnership with HRE, especially the GlobalRes community (www.du.edu/housing/buildings/globalres)

**Upcoming**
• a student retreat over MLK holiday weekend 2018
• student, staff and faculty sustained groups in winter/spring quarters 2018, and beyond
• new (vs adapted) pilot undergrad courses for winter+spring 2018: COMN 2700 special topics on Intergroup Structures, Identities and Dialogue, with a focus on race and gender
• Connecting faculty and graduate students with an interest in dialogue practice and impact as research topic
• Central DU pilot funding to hire a full-time Program Manager, who’ll coordinate continued development of the co-curricular programs
• Exploring connections to Restorative Justice efforts by Student Rights & Responsibilities (www.du.edu/studentlife/studentconduct)
• Developing and publishing a more comprehensive foundations and plans document for the Initiative.

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