The Ohio University Multicultural Leadership Ambassadors Program, now in its fourth year, continues to grow its diverse pool of speakers. The Ambassadors are a select group of trained peer advocates who strive to eliminate stereotypes while building inclusive, understanding communities through interactive presentations. They share their own diversity narrative and help others understand the importance of diversity on campus and in our society. Dr. Shari Clarke, Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion created the program shortly after arriving on campus. A collaboration with Housing and Residence Life, the program gives residence hall students another contact point for diversity questions. “All of our students arrive on campus with their own lens of the world according to how they were raised. It is not unusual for students to believe false stereotypes and react to other students inappropriately because of them. The narrative changes when you actually interact with and know individuals who are different from yourself. It breaks down the negative stereotypes”, says Dr Clarke.
Goals

1. To cultivate Senior & Executive Leadership to promote, encourage and sustain a commitment to diversity and inclusivity in the recruitment and retention of faculty, staff and students.

2. To work with each academic college and campus to provide leadership in the recruitment and retention of underrepresented Faculty and Staff.

3. To create Campus climates that welcome and respect all people; values equality and worth for all individuals.

4. To increase domestic diversity among the student population on each campus.

5. To increase diversity among the student population on each campus.

6. To insure at least one candidate represents an underrepresented population in each interview pool and on each search committee.

Our Commitment…

Ohio University is committed to promoting an atmosphere where understanding and acceptance of gender, cultural and ethnic differences are ensured and valued.

Ohio University embraces a climate that respects different cultures and enhances the University’s ability to provide all of its students with the experiences necessary to successfully compete and achieve in an increasingly diverse and complex society.

Ohio University believes in and recognizes that diversity of faculty, staff, students and curriculum represents Inclusive Excellence.

At Ohio University we strive to…

Improve the campus climate to foster the nurturing, acceptance, and respect of women, racial/ethnic minorities, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender persons and diverse individuals.

Ameliorate and eliminate barriers to students, faculty, and staff’s interactions across gender, racial, ethnic and cultural boundaries.

Foster understanding, respect and appreciation of similarities and differences among multi- cultures, groups and religions.

Recruit and retain underrepresented diverse populations and racial minorities as members of the administration, faculty, staff and student populations.

Increase scholarships for racial/ethnic minority groups and support for faculty diversity.

Enhance diversity throughout the university to include, but not limited to: university governance, colleges, departments committees, and administration.

Promote increased understanding and relations between the University and the community to enhance communication and appreciation of women, racial/ethnic and cultural groups in order to breakdown barriers.

Concluding Statement

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) serves as a leader and advocate for awareness, understanding and inclusion of all people. Ohio University offers the opportunity to experience the richness of diverse cultures, communities, and societies through a culturally educated view of the world. The Office for Diversity and Inclusion is comprised of: The Women’s Center, The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Center, The Office of Multicultural Student Access and Retention, The Multicultural Center-Multicultural Programs Office, Survivor Advocacy and Survivor Advocacy Outreach Programs. The work of inspiring and transforming community is reflected in both the individual and collaborative efforts of these offices both on and off campuses.
Native American Outreach

With approximately 30,000 Native American people residing in the state of Ohio, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion is specifically targeting the recruitment of Native American students, faculty, and staff through developing relationships with Native people that respect and honor their traditions and history. D&I offers the Rankin Scholarship for students entering the university. Details can be found at ohio.edu/omsar/rankin/

Ohio University President, Dr. Roderick McDavis, receives the 2016 Black Alumni Reunion Diversity and Inclusion Medal of Excellence during the gala dinner held at the Baker Center Ballroom on Friday, September 16, 2016.

Singers from Anointed Ministries perform for the Black Alumni Reunion Variety Show.

The Singing Sensations Youth Choir perform at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day brunch.
**Multicultural Faculty in Residence Program**

This program aims to increase diverse faculty presence and role modeling in the residence halls. Through formal and informal interactions and programs, underrepresented faculty experience current student culture and receive additional academic resources based on inclusivity. Outcomes include an enriched educational experience, strengthening of the academic community and workplace, and promotion of personal growth and a healthy society.

In April, Christina K. Wright was named the first Multicultural Faculty-in-Residence. Wright, who identifies as an Asian-American woman with Type I diabetes, has worked for five years in the College of Business as teacher, academic course planner, student team coach, researcher and advisor. Dr. Clarke said: “This position will provide a seamless transition between the classroom and the residence hall environment and increase the presence of diverse faculty in our residence halls.” “Too many times our conversations are around checkboxes,” Wright said. “Are you male or female, white, ethnic minority or international. So much of the conversation should be ‘we are all diverse and we all bring perspectives beyond these checkboxes.’ Wright said she looks forward to helping students become successful adults who appreciate diversity.

**The Ohio University SREB Doctoral Fellows Program**

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Doctoral Scholars Program provides members of underrepresented minority groups with support to pursue a Ph.D. Ohio University’s vision is to become the nation’s best transformative learning community. To that end, the university is strongly committed to academic excellence and views diversity and inclusiveness as being essential to its success in providing outstanding academic experiences that equip students for life in a diverse multicultural society. A collaboration with the Gladys W. and David H. Patton College of Education, this program provides tuition waivers and stipends, dissertation research support and professional development, counseling and advocacy, and participation in the annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring.

**Multicultural Junior Faculty Mentoring Program**

The MCJFMP provides support, advocacy, advice, and resource information to junior tenure-track faculty members to assist them in tenure and promotion, derive job satisfaction, and make Ohio University and its community their permanent home.

**The Interlink Alliance**

A nine member institutions partnership to work in the key areas of faculty development, student leadership, and fostering interest in attending college among students as early as middle school. The Alliance’s central purpose is the development and preparation of African American students to learn, live, and lead in the 21st century.

**SIDE—Summer Institute for Diversity Education**

The first program of its kind in southeastern Ohio, SIDE is a 30-hour curriculum session that uses intercultural communication techniques to promote cross-cultural learning and builds diversity education and facilitation skills.

SID facilitates Dr. Mark P. Orbe, Western Michigan University’s School of Communications.
From the Director

Welcome to the Office for Multicultural Student Access and Retention (OMSAR) at Ohio University’s Athens Campus. OMSAR provides a wide array of programs and support services for underrepresented students. Students are assisted through each college transition: from first year enrollment to senior year commencement. Activities are guided by three standards: Academic Achievement, Leadership, and Service. By participating in a wide range of activities, OMSAR scholars develop behaviors that enhance their academic, leadership, and service skill set and empower them to succeed academically and professionally.

OMSAR Scholars Programs
- Templeton Scholars Program
- Appalachian Scholars Program
- Rankin Scholars Program
- Urban Scholars Program
- Promise Scholars
- Ohio Reach Scholars

OMSAR Support Programs
Year 1:
LINKS: A first-year college transition and support program: ohio.edu/omsar/LINKS

Years 2, 3, 4:
Achieve, lead, and steward the OHIO Promise Program:
Support for upper-class students focuses on academic skill building, leadership development, and post-baccalaureate preparation.
Academic Support Advising: One-on-one advising by OMSAR staff
Courses: Taken for academic credit, these classes rotate annually on topics pertaining to academic achievement, leadership, and community service.

Templeton Scholars Program
A comprehensive scholarship program designed for academically talented students. It honors John Newton Templeton, Ohio University’s first African American graduate (class of 1828) and his legacy of academic excellence, leadership, and campus and community involvement. Valuable educational opportunities provided include:
• LINKS
• A four-year renewable scholarship
• Full in-state tuition
• Double room in a scholars residence hall
• Twenty-meal weekly dining plan
• Community service opportunities
• OMSAR advising
• Co-curricular opportunities
• Academic Enrichment Courses
• Free tutoring
More information at: ohio.edu/omsar
OHIO Promise Scholarships
These four-year renewable scholarships are awarded to students from a variety of backgrounds and experiences who can contribute to the intellectual, cultural, and social diversity of Ohio University. Recipients have access to a variety of OMSAR student support services. More information at: ohio.edu/omsar

Harry and Ruth Rankin Scholarship Program
The Rankins provided this gift to fund a selective, merit-based scholarship program for members of federally recognized Native American tribes. The scholarship is awarded to academically talented students who can contribute to the intellectual, cultural, and social diversity of Ohio University. The Rankin Scholarship emphasizes academic excellence, leadership, cultural exchange, and community service. It includes:
- A four-year renewable scholarship
- Full tuition, fees, and out-of-state surcharges
- OMSAR advising
- Double room in a scholars residence hall
- Twenty-meal weekly dining plan
- LINKS
- Academic Enrichment Courses
- Co-curricular opportunities
More information at: ohio.edu/omsar

Urban Scholars Program
A prestigious merit and need-based scholarship program for high school graduates of urban school districts in Ohio. The program provides scholarship support to students with demonstrated financial need and academic achievement, coupled with the desire and motivation to succeed. It includes:
- A four-year renewable scholarship
- Annual book stipend
- OMSAR advising
- Free tutoring
- Leadership and community service experiences
- LINKS
- Academic Enrichment Courses
- Co-curricular opportunities
More information at: ohio.edu/omsar

Appalachian Scholars Program
A prestigious merit and need-based scholarship program for high school graduates residing in one of the 32 Appalachian counties of Ohio. The program provides scholarship support to students with demonstrated financial need and academic achievement, coupled with the desire and motivation to succeed. It includes:
- A four-year renewable scholarship
- Annual book stipend
- OMSAR advising
- Free tutoring
- Leadership and community service experiences
- LINKS
- Academic Enrichment Courses
- Co-curricular opportunities
More information at: ohio.edu/omsar

1,209 active OMSAR scholars
3.075 average OMSAR scholar GPA
LINKS is a year-long transition, enrichment, and support program, committed to attracting and retaining high achieving students from diverse backgrounds, to maximize their academic, leadership, and service potential. For over 30 years, the LINKS program has been the cornerstone of support and assistance for first-year multicultural students at Ohio University.

LINKS helps first-year students navigate the college experience by focusing on issues of access, retention, and student success, while promoting the educational benefits of diversity and inclusion at Ohio University. The LINKS program is highly successful, boasting a 91% fall to spring retention rate, and an 85% retention rate from year 1 to year 2 of enrollment.

The LINKS program consists of Pre-Matriculation, an intense 2-day program, and Academic Year Enrichment that involves academic monitoring and tracking, academic and professional development workshops, leadership and workforce development, community service, and enrichment sessions. All students in the LINKS program receive free tutoring throughout the duration of their enrollment at Ohio University.
OMSAR has created three study abroad programs by partnering with the Office of Global Opportunities, the College of Arts and Sciences, and University College. Service learning with OMSAR makes academic and professional enrichment available to its scholars. Among the benefits provided are international cultural competence, field experience, improved written and oral communication skills, networking opportunities, cultural, historical, and literary knowledge of the post-colony, and a new understanding of themselves as global citizens committed to academic excellence, leadership, and service. OMSAR Study Abroad programs are affordable in part because OMSAR staff take no salary, helping underrepresented students to take advantage of such a high impact experience.

Service Learning abroad with OMSAR

OMSAR has created three study abroad programs by partnering with the Office of Global Opportunities, the College of Arts and Sciences, and University College.

Service learning with OMSAR makes academic and professional enrichment available to its scholars. Among the benefits provided are international cultural competence, field experience, improved written and oral communication skills, networking opportunities, cultural, historical, and literary knowledge of the post-colony, and a new understanding of themselves as global citizens committed to academic excellence, leadership, and service. OMSAR Study Abroad programs are affordable in part because OMSAR staff take no salary, helping underrepresented students to take advantage of such a high impact experience.

Literature, Culture, and Service Learning in BELIZE
University College or English Junior Composition requirement course over Winter Break

Experiential Learning in Colonial MEXICO
Tier II Arts & Sciences History class in Mexico over Spring Break

Community Engagement in JAMAICA
University College service learning course over Spring Break

Awards and Recognitions
Dr. Marlene De La Cruz-Guzmán was awarded an 1804 Grant as Co-Principal Investigator for a $20,000 grant to start a Summer Coding Academy at Ohio University in 2017. She was appointed by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to serve on the National AAUW Diversity and Inclusion Task Force and her chapter received the AAUW Daffodil Diversity Award for her recruitment efforts. Dr. De La Cruz-Guzmán is also the president of the AAUW Athens branch. The Ohio University Student Research Exposition once again had an OMSAR Award for Best Research in Diversity and Inclusion. First place award: Corey Hayes. Second place award: Gabriella Clarke and co-presenters.
From the Director

In the 2016-2017 academic year, the Women's Center unveiled Women Leading OHIO, an early career faculty and staff development program, and officially launched She Leads OHIO, a series of professional and leadership training for students. We tripled the number of participants in the Women’s Mentoring Program and formalized training of the mentors in the Young Women Leaders Program through offering the first C-designated course on campus (PCOE 2301C). The Women’s Center organized a Women in Graduate School Day Conference, and created a new partnership with the Women’s Panhellenic Association and the Positivity Project to offer a week-long series of programs for Love Yourself Week. In partnership with Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc. and Order of Omega, we created the Women’s Achievement Dinner. As part of the Race, Gender and Culture film series, we brought in two speakers: Hend Nafea, featured in ‘The Trials of Spring’, and Renee Tajima-Peña, director of the documentary ‘No Más Bebés’. Additionally, the Women’s Center began to host a post-abortion support group, which is affiliated with a pro-life organization, as part of our outreach to work with both pro-life and pro-choice groups. The Women’s Center continued to offer monthly brown bag lunch and learns, rebranded as Thirsting for Knowledge Thursdays, and coffee hours, rebranded as highly caffeinated themed conversations.

Vision

Ohio University’s Women’s Center strives to be an integral part of the university’s transformative learning community, and a national leader in its own right. The Women’s Center promotes inclusion, honors difference, and works with faculty, staff, students, and the larger Athens community, to promote academic achievement, active global citizenship, and substantive leadership positions for women in all professional fields, as well as building confidence within women’s personal lives, by using an intersectional, though gendered, lens.
**Mission**

The mission of the Ohio University Women’s Center is to act as a catalyst to promote awareness, education, and advocacy about women, gender, and diversity, among faculty, staff, and students at Ohio University and its surrounding communities. In fulfilling its mission, the Center provides students, faculty, and staff with information, services, and programs that address matters of particular concern to women - while exploring the connections among gender, race, economic status, sexual orientation, culture, religion, political views, and other significant elements in relation to women’s individuality and collective identity.

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**She Leads Ohio Program**

This structured professional development and leadership program takes into consideration the particular hurdles that women face in the workforce. Students who complete all aspects of the program receive a certificate of completion after completing an online form documenting their program attendance and demonstrate their learning. The program may be completed at any time during one’s enrollment at Ohio University. She Leads Ohio requires the completion of four Women’s Center programs and two CLDC services as detailed on our website.

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**Women Leading OHIO**

In its inaugural year, a small cohort of 12 participated weekly in this training for early career faculty and staff. Participants were provided with mentors and an opportunity to job shadow others on campus, and completed weekly sessions including:

- build a professional leadership network through weekly workshops with their cohort
- engaging in mentoring and job shadowing with on-campus leaders
- participate in team building activities
- engage with community and campus leaders
- discuss styles of leadership and supervision
- investigate gendered issues in higher education
- reflect on the meaning of diversity and inclusion within the workplace, and integrate intercultural knowledge into their workplace or syllabus
- learn from leaders about career advancement
- attend the Celebrate Women Conference at OU Lancaster

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**Women in Grad School Day Conference**

Workshops and discussions at the February 2017 conference covered ‘Personal Branding and Networking’, ‘Facing “isms” in the workplace’, ‘Budgeting in Grad School’, and ‘Careers after Grad School’. Award-winning author on impostor syndrome, Dr. Valerie Young, was the keynote speaker.

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**Young Women Leaders Program**

A collaboration between the OHIO University’s Women’s Center and Athens Middle School, the Young Women’s Leader Program (YWLP) is an innovative mentoring program designed to empower middle school girls and college women to be leaders and to make positive choices based on their interactions as mentors and peers. Participants meet weekly for trainings and group discussions at the middle school. YWLP was founded in 1997 by Edith “Winx” Lawrence, PhD, and Kimberly Roberts, PhD, and is sponsored by the University of Virginia Women’s Center and the Curry School of Education. Ohio University is a proud sister site of this program.
More than:

110 events

3,260 attendees

1,560 visitors

The Women’s Mentoring Program

This is an opportunity for sophomore, junior, and senior students at Ohio University to connect with a female mentor in their personal and professional fields of interest. Mentors offer guidance and encouragement, assisting students in reaching their personal and professional goals. Participating students and mentors have the opportunity to attend programs and activities focused on career and professional development. In 2016-2017, 72 mentees were paired with professional mentors in the Athens area.

Awards and Recognitions
Dr. Murray, Director of the Women’s Center, was selected to serve as a Member-at-Large of the Executive Board of the Women’s Network Ohio (WNO), an affiliate of the American Council on Education (ACE) Women’s Network. Dr. Murray was also featured on the cover of an edition of ohiowomen magazine. She accepted the International Leadership Association’s Women and Leadership Affinity Group’s award for Outstanding Practice with Local Impact at their conference in New York in June 2017. The Women’s Center awarded Gabriela Clarke with the Women’s Issues Leadership Award at the Leadership Awards Gala.

Programming Highlights 2016-17

July 26-27 • Residence Hall Director Diversity Training
August 9 • Resident Assistant Training: Gender 101
August 10 • Resident Assistant Training: Eating Disorders
August 22-29 • Mentoring Program Training
September 14 • Speaker: Princess Harmony Rodriguez
September 26-30 • Love Yourself Week with Speaker Jennifer Cassetta
October 6 • Thirsting for Knowledge Thursdays: Breast Cancer
October 26 • Race, Gender, and Culture Film Series: Menstrual Man
November 12 • Elect Her: Campus Women Win
November 14 • Race, Gender, and Culture Film Series: The Trials of Spring with speaker Hend Nafea
November 28,30 • AAUW Start Smart Salary Negotiation
December 1 • Thirsting for Knowledge Thursdays: Self-Care and Wellness
January 30 • Race, Gender, and Culture Film Series: MIND/GAME
February 1 • World Hijab Day
February 2 • Thirsting for Knowledge Thursdays: Myths vs. Realities
February 4 • Women in Grad School Day Conference
February 23 • National Eating Disorder Awareness Week Film: Embrace
February 25 • Celebrating Women: Leaders on and off the court
February 27 • Race, Gender, and Culture Film Series: Anita, Speaking Truth to Power
March 2 • Women’s Achievement Dinner
March 16 • Women within the Wizarding World: The Witty Quiz Game for Wizards
March 19 • International Women’s Day Festival
March 22 • Race, Gender, and Culture Film Series: No Más Bebés with Renee Tajima-Peña
March 22 • Women’s History Month: Lois Whealey
March 29 • Breaking Barriers: A Case Study in Lt. Col. Layla Sweet
April 6 • Thirsting for Knowledge Thursdays: Fat Activism
April 12 • Meditation Workshop
April 19 • Women in STEM Coffee Hour
From the Director

The LGBT Center’s most prominent aspect of work in the 2016-2017 academic year is to continue to create an environment that is inclusive, supportive, safe, diverse, and educational for students regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or level of being out. The need for an LGBT Center stems from the marginalization of queer people in different levels of society; the center advocates for their equality on campus and off campus providing opportunities for education and advocacy on sexual and gender diversities. This year we have placed emphasis on looking at events and issues through an intersectional lens. The LGBT community has different identities further than just being queer: we are our nationalities, race, class, religious affiliations, immigration status, political affiliations, educational level, abilities/disabilities, personal interests, and more. The Center collaborates with different student organizations and campus centers/offices on a variety of events as one way of engaging and affirming all aspects of the lives of students, faculty, staff, and members of the community.

Mission

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Center advances the diversity mission of Ohio University by creating a university environment and community inclusive and supportive of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and queerness. We focus on the unique academic, cultural, and social needs of LGBT students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the wider community. As an academic support unit, we strive to enhance students’ learning and engagement as well as increase the retention of LGBT students. Our broader influence emerges from providing resources, educational opportunities, social gatherings, and LGBTQ justice initiatives to all students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members at Ohio University and beyond.
**Outreach**
This year, the LGBT Center has reached thousands with outreach and education on various topics related to sexual and gender diversities. **SafeZone** trainings were presented in over 50 locations including classrooms, learning communities, campus mental health and healthcare staff, housing staff, administrative spaces, and community organizations within Southeast Ohio and beyond. The goal of these presentations is to educate on different aspects and needs of the LGBT population. **SpeakOut** panels were also vital in reaching more students, faculty, and staff through the power of story sharing. The Center participated in over 30 panels through which individuals shared personal experiences about being a LGBT person and/or ally to the community. In addition, Center staff guest lectured on a variety of topics and facilitated workshops at conferences in Ohio as well as other parts of the country.

**Awards and Recognitions 2016-2017**
delfin bautista, Debra Benton, and Ohio University were awarded the **Equity & Inclusion Award** from the Ohio College Personnel Association for their work on name and pronoun policy. The General Assembly of the State of Ohio extends **special recognition** to delfin bautista for work on university name and pronoun policy. delfin bautista is awarded **Top OHIO Faculty Newsmaker** by University Communications and Marketing for the second most number of media mentions university wide. Gabriela Godinez-Feregrino, LGBT center student staff, receives the **Social Justice Award** from United Campus Ministry. Ohio University is named **2017 Top 25 LGBTQ-Friendly Online Colleges** and the **2017 25 Most Affordable LGBTQ-Friendly Online Colleges.**

Patricia Palmer, Administrative Services Associate for the Multicultural Center and the LGBT Center, is honored at the **Women’s Achievement Dinner.**

**LGBT Numbers:**

- 2748 newsletter subscribers
- 2287 Twitter followers

**Pride Graduation, April 2017**

**Student conference attendees, Chicago, February 2017**
Event Highlights 2016-17

October 7 • National Coming Out Day SpeakOUT Rally
October 12 • Screening of ‘Documented’
October 27 • Queer Self Defense Workshop
November 16 • Trans Empowerment Week: ‘Exact Change’ by Christina Howey
January 26 • Keeping the Rainbow Alive: Self Care in New Political Reality
January and February • New Series – Breaking the Silence: Queerness and DisAbility
February 21 • Visiting Artists: Snake Talk – Lunch and Talk
April 15 • Pride Graduation
June 9-11 • Athens Pride Fest (first pride celebration for SE Ohio)
**Presentations**

The LGBT Center director and staff presented at various conferences and community groups including:

- **July** • Campus Pride’s Advisor Academy at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte (faculty)
- **July** • ‘Tammy Fay’s Final Audition’ by Merri Biechler, Dublin, Ohio (panel)
- **September** • Seminar on Religion and Transgender Lives, Butler University (panel)
- **October** • Inclusivity in the classroom – Scripps Pedagogy Professional Seminar
- **October** • Ohio Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers Annual Conference (breakout session)
- **October** • SafeZone presentation at OU-Southern
- **October** • Transgender Spectrum Conference at Washington University, St. Louis (panel, keynote)
- **November** • Social Work and LGBT identities
- **January** • Behavioral Health Conference (keynote lunch panel, breakout session)
- **February** • Scripps PRSSA Diversity panel
- **February** • Kognito Ohio K12 – Webinar on Suicide Prevention
- **March** • Spirituality and Inclusive Recreation: Religion and Sports
- **March** • Stories from the Clinic: Transgender Health Experiences (panel moderator)
- **April** • SafeZone presentation for Fairfield County Job and Family Services
- **April** • SafeZone presentation for Athens Children and Family Services
- **May** • Appalachia Rising! Camp’s workshop on Microaggressions and Cultural Appropriation
- **June** • SafeZone 201: Challenging Microaggression and Privilege
- **June** • Diversity Panel for Southeast Ohio: Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Seminar
- **June** • Stuart’s Opera House – Diversity presentation
From the Director

Our aim is to familiarize the campus community with the contributions and histories of African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian American/Pacific Islander and Native American cultures. During the 2016-2017 academic year, our office hosted 55 programs and events, collaborated on a total of 90 events, with a cumulative attendance of about 14,000. This report features just a few highlights. Achieving an open, respectful, diverse, connected community is what we strive for.

The Office of Multicultural Programs is committed to supporting and promoting multicultural awareness. It develops educational, recreational, social, and cultural programs and opportunities that increase understanding and appreciation of cultural differences.

The Multicultural Center serves as a place where cultural teaching and learning are the focus of all programs and activities. Its focus is intercultural, and provides a place where members of the university community, representing a variety of backgrounds, participate in programs and activities. All programming in the Center is designed to increase human understanding through the study and expression of culture. Located on the second floor of Baker University Center, the center houses a state-of-the-art conference room, multipurpose room, computer lab, library and casual lounge.

Dr. Winsome M. Chunnu
Strategic Director for Diversity and Inclusion and Multicultural Programs and Initiatives

Patricia Palmer
Administrative Services Associate

Office of Multicultural Programs
Multicultural Center
205 Baker University Center
Athens, OH 45701
ohio.edu/culturalcenter
740.597.2110

MC Numbers:

55 programs and events
90 event co-hosted
14000 cumulative attendance
The Outstanding Programming Award was established in 1986 and recognizes student organizations for conceiving, planning, and implementing outstanding programs on the Ohio University campus. In Fall semester 2016, it was awarded for the Blackburn-Spencer Pageant.

The Division of Student Affairs Excellence in the Workplace Scholarships was awarded to Matthew Kinlow.

The John Newton Templeton Outstanding Senior Leader Award was awarded to Jeffrey Billingslea.

**Outstanding Programming Award**

**Hispanic and Latino Student Union**

The Hispanic and Latino Student Union was organized to promote higher education, cultural events, brotherhood and sisterhood within the Latino community. The organization can be contacted by emailing latinosu@ohio.edu

**Native Peoples Awareness Coalition**

The Native Peoples Awareness Coalition (NPAC) is a student/community organization that comes together to honor the cultural value and beliefs of Native Peoples, and to support those who preserve and share this heritage. The organization is open to both Native and Non-Native American students alike. It is also here to give those of Native heritage an opportunity to discuss issues unique to their experience.

**Programming Highlights 2016-17**

- **August 25** • Multicultural Student Organizations Fair
- **September 15 - October 15** • Hispanic Heritage Month
- **October 8** • Blackburn-Spencer Scholarship Pageant
- **November** • American Indian Heritage Month
- **November 30** • Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration
- **December 1** • K is for Kwanzaa
- **January 16** • Martin Luther King Jr. Day Brunch
- **February 1** • National Black HIV/AIDS Day
- **February 3** • Sib’s Weekend Variety Show and After Party
- **February 4** • S nib Weekend Concert
- **February** • Black History Month
- **March** • Women’s History/Asian American History Month
- **April 1** • Mom’s Weekend Expo
- **April 4** • Holocaust Remembrance Program
- **April 28** • Kushinda / Ritos de Pasaje
Black Student Cultural Programming Board

The office formally advises the Black Student Cultural Programming Board. The BSCPB provides social, cultural, educational and recreational programs for all students at Ohio University. In addition, they seek to expose others to the culture, thoughts and perspectives of African Americans throughout the University community as well as the Athens community. Membership is open to the public. If you would like to join this organization, they can be contacted by email at bscpblohoio.edu or by attending their weekly meeting on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the Multicultural Center.

Holocaust Remembrance Program

In collaboration with Hillel, Jewish student organizations, and community members and organizations, our Holocaust program intents for students to remember and discuss this major genocide, and also to shed light on other acts of genocide around the world, such as in Rwanda and Sudan. One lesson is to realize that, no matter the time period, inequality should never go unchecked in any society. Noah Lederman, author of the poignant memoir “A World Erased”, was this year’s featured speaker.

Kushinda/Ritos de Pasaje

Kushinda/Ritos de Pasaje enjoyed a record participation this year with 115 students registered. The ceremony was established in 1997 as two separate programs for African American and Latino students. Kushinda is an African word meaning “to win” and Ritos de Pasaje translates as “rite of passage” in Spanish.” The celebrations have since been joined. The Kushinda/Ritos de Pasaje Graduation Celebration is an intimate gathering for family, friends and members of the Ohio University community to celebrate the culture and accomplishments of the multicultural undergraduate graduating class.
The Blackburn Spencer Scholarship Pageant

Through the combined efforts of the Black Student Cultural Programming Board (BSCPB), several sponsoring Ohio University student organizations, and contestant fundraising, the annual Blackburn Spencer Homecoming Pageant is the largest fundraising initiative for the Blackburn Spencer Scholarship. In 1976, BSCPB coined the event to honor the legacies of Martha Jane Hunley Blackburn, the first African-American female to graduate from the university in 1916, and Donald A. Spencer Sr., the first African American chairperson of the Ohio University Board of Trustees who served from 1974 - 1983. Over the course of 40 years, BSCPB has raised close to $300,000, awarding and presenting over 290 scholarships and achievement awards to students. Created by students, the scholarship and achievement awards reflect the ideal and spirit of students helping students. At the 40th anniversary, BSCPB hosted over 350 students, administrators, faculty, family and friends, generating funds from nearly 1,000 alumni, students, family members, and friends. We also honored Dr. McDavis at the event, and exceeded our fundraising goal, awarding 11 scholarships at the annual Leadership Gala.

K is for Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday that combines aspects of different African tribes’ “first fruit” (harvest) celebrations. The official holiday is celebrated Dec. 26 through Jan. 1. The Pre-Kwanzaa celebration gives students the opportunity to celebrate together while still on campus. The BSCPB/MCC Cultural Arts team gave an in-depth history on the origins of Kwanzaa as well as the evolution of BSCPB observation of the holiday. Every year, we host 2 large and impactful events surrounding the holiday in the OU community. At “K is for Kwanzaa”, we invite local elementary school students to the Multicultural Center and teach them of the 7 principles of Kwanzaa through interactive stations within Baker University Center. At the Kwanzaa dinner, a host of student performers and professional storytellers from Cleveland are featured.

American Indian Heritage Month Speaker

Anton Treuer, executive director of the American Indian Resource Center, spoke about the realities of insensitive sports mascots. He addresses this topic in his book, “Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians but Were Afraid to Ask.” Treuer grew up on the Leech Lake Ojibwe Reservation in Minnesota and has Ojibwe roots. He has earned more than 40 prestigious awards and fellowships for his work in history and the humanities.

The 2017 MCC Awards at the Annual Leadership Gala

More than 40 student leaders and exemplary organizations were honored with awards and scholarships at this year’s Leadership Awards Gala on April 5. 2017 Awards from the MCC include:

The Latino Heritage Achievement Award recognizes outstanding students of Latino descent with at least 24 completed credit hours and a 2.75 cumulative grade point average. The 2017 recipients are Salvador Gomez, Madison Lopez, and Emily Morello.

The Martha Jane Hunley Blackburn and Donald A. Spencer Scholarship and Achievement Awards go to selected recipients based on a combination of financial need, academic performance, and outstanding contributions to Ohio University. The 2017 Blackburn-Spencer Achievement Award recipients are Elsie Ansong, Lauren Cartwright, Justine Johnson, Matthew Kinlow, Victoria Lewis, Kaleb Russell, and Alexandria Stewart. The 2017 Blackburn-Spencer Scholarship Award recipients are Yasmine Agyekum, Randi Bateman, Aissatou Boye, and Crystal Vincent.