



Season's Greetings

From the ACCESS & DIVERSITY CENTER at UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

The sleigh bells, snowflakes, carols, evergreens, holiday cheer, and all of the holiday traditions we celebrate! No wonder they call this “the most wonderful time of the year.” From our family to yours, we hope your holiday season is filled with love, joy, and peace.

With the season of gift giving upon us, we'd like to thank you for your gift of education. Through your service and support, our students are one step closer to achieving their educational goals.

We are excited to share with you news of what is happening in our office and to highlight the amazing students we are so fortunate to work with. Enjoy!

Warmest Regards,
Director Michelle Bogdan-Holt



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Expect the Great

The Black Student Union represented USU at the state-level conference

In November, ten students from the Black Student Union (BSU) represented Utah State University at a state-level conference on higher education. They enjoyed connecting with other Black, African, and African-American students across the state, and they represented our university well.

Expect the Great is an annual event that strives to build up, invest in, and connect African, African-American, and Black students together. It focuses on college retention and completion. The conference took place at Salt Lake Community College on November 7th and 8th and there was a great turn out!

The conference opened with a night of networking. Students from colleges all over the state ate dinner together, played games, performed skits, and danced. Dr. Bryan Hotchkins presented on intersecting identities (such as ethnic identity, gender, identity as a student in higher education, etc). He talked about how our lives are impacted by the many diverse roles we fill in society, and by the choices we make.

The following morning, the students heard a keynote presentation by Adrienne Andrews from Weber State University and attended two workshops. One workshop was presented by Access & Diversity Center's own Sheree Haggan (Multicultural Program Coordinator and Advisor for BSU). Sheree co-presented with LaShawn Williams-Schultz from Salt Lake Community College. They spoke about how to overcome the challenges you face in school and take advantage of resources available in order to make it through graduation and into a stable career. They shared their own experiences and helped the students understand that no matter what your background is, you can be successful.

We were proud of the way our students represented us at the conference. It was no surprise to us when conference staff commented on the mature and professional way they conducted themselves. They really stood out as exceptional student attendees, and they had a great time participating. We will be delighted to provide this opportunity for our students again next year.



Students from the Black Student Union at the Expect the Great Conference in Salt Lake City, November 7 & 8

ACCESS & DIVERSITY CLUB OFFICERS



Asian Student Association (ASA)

Left to Right: Jessica Howard, Tony Kwok, Arlinda Kwok, Merin Cook, Amber Lam



Latino Student Union (LSU)

Left to Right: Monica Farfan, Leopoldo Torres-Reyes, Grecia Jimenez, Eddie Campus, Not pictured: Sarah Ramos



LIFE (Love Is For Everyone)

Left to Right: Mel Austin, Kelby Peterson, Anna Turner, Ivie van Lent, Alec Player

ACCESS & DIVERSITY CLUB OFFICERS



Nontraditional Student Association
 Left to Right: Pam June, Emily Horlacher, Jennae Simmons



Polynesian Student Union (PSU)
 Left to Right: Vafua Maguigoa, Sione Talakai, Tave Heitonga, Julia Fie'eiki, Matt Kimbrough



Black Student Union (BSU)
 Left to Right: Fallon Ferris, Jeunee Roberts, Jasmine Lee. Not pictured: Cadi Sande

Native American Student Council
 Darian June, Curtis Pacheco, Matt Williams, Jalynn Jones, Jason Brough, Claudia Charles

Echoing Traditional Ways

Native American Student Council Powwow is one of the oldest traditions at USU

In February, the Native American Student Council hosted their 41st annual powwow: one of the longest-standing traditions at Utah State University.

Miss American Indian USU Sarah Francom represented Utah State at the powwow and served as Head Woman. Dancers and drum groups from all over the country competed in their brightly colored regalia. The full spectrum of ages was represented, from tiny tots to elders. Native American artisans sold jewelry, pottery, and other authentic Native American goods. As always, delicious Indian Tacos and frybread prepared by the Native American Student Council and volunteers were sold at the concessions stand.

The Powwow preserves a deep and lasting sense of family, pride and tradition. Behind the displays of dance, music, and vibrant regalia are sacred legends and meanings.

The Native American Student Council would like to welcome you to enjoy their 42nd Annual "Echoing Traditional Ways" Powwow as a cultural celebration, social gathering, and friendly dance competition. It takes place February 27 starting at 7 pm, and February 28 with the day session starting at 12 pm and the evening session starting at 6 pm. We know the powwow will be a wonderful memory for you. May you join us for another memorable experience.



Student Highlight: Sandra Martinez

Intern Sandra Martinez selected for coveted position in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute in Washington, D.C.



"The Access & Diversity Center has allowed me the opportunity to network with some really cool people and provided me with the leadership, resources, and financial support that I need to be successful."

–Sandra Martinez

Sandra Martinez is a junior with a major in sociology and a minor in political science. Her dream is to work within the social justice realm to help minority populations. She received the Emma Eccles Jones Educational Opportunity Scholarship and the Access & Diversity Center Scholarship.

Her parents were born in Mexico and came to the United States 25 years ago. Although they never finished Elementary school they have worked very hard to provide for Sandra and her siblings. Sandra and her older brother Johnny will be the first in their family to graduate from college.

Sandra is a past officer of the Latino Student Union (LSU) and she worked as an Intern in the Access & Diversity Center Fall 2014. She ran our social media and marketing, and assisted with multicultural programming. She was recently selected as an Intern for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute in Washington D.C. where she will spend spring semester 2015 developing leadership skills while learning about the legislative process. She is on track to graduate with her Bachelors in Sociology, Spring 2016.

Welcoming two new staff members

Sheree Haggan and Angela Enno join the staff at the ADC

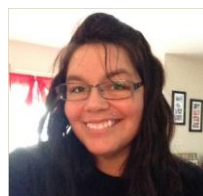
This summer, the Access & Diversity center welcomed two new members to the full-time staff: Sheree Haggan and Angela Enno.

Sheree is a recent graduate of USU who earned her Bachelor's degree in communication. She previously worked as an intern for our office and her innovation and drive far exceeded our expectations. One example of this was when she created Changing the Fate, a campus-wide campaign addressing microaggressions experienced by students on USU's campus. You can learn more about changing the fate at the facebook page for the campaign:

<https://www.facebook.com/humancompetency>. We are thrilled to have Sheree advising our Black Student Union, Polynesian Student Union, and Asian Student Association. She also advises USU's chapter *I Am That Girl*, a group focusing on women's issues. Sheree directs the majority of our public relations.



Sheree Haggan



Angela Enno

Angela Enno earned her master's in counseling psychology from USU, and is a current doctoral student. Her research focuses on recruitment and retention of ethnic minorities in higher education, and on identity development for LGBTQ ethnic minorities. Angela advises the Native American Student Council and Latino Student Union. Her current projects at Access & Diversity include an indigenous identity group launching spring semester, and a mural project involving students in redesigning our physical office space to make it more welcoming and inclusive. She oversees our scholarship program, and conducts assessment and program evaluation.

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Finding Asia: Origins

The Asian Student Association's annual event was a big success!

The Asian Student Association (ASA) hosted their annual Finding Asia Banquet on Saturday, November 15, 2014. This year the theme was Origins. The event took place in the TSC Ballroom where around 200 students, staff, and community members enjoyed a cultural dinner and show. We were thrilled to see many of the Access & Diversity Center's clubs step up to support ASA in coordinating and producing this banquet. The event was co-hosted by two outstanding members of our Access and Diversity Center family: Fua Mauigoa, President of the Polynesian Student Union (PSU) and Yuzhen Luo former Executive Council member for ASA. They did an excellent job introducing upcoming performances, engaging the audience and playing interactive games with them, and creating a positive and enlightening atmosphere for the entire event.

USU Dining Services catered a delicious meal with some traditional Asian foods hand picked by this year's ASA Executive Council. The menu included: Edamame with Salt and Soy Sauce, Satay Pumpkin Curry with White Jasmine Rice, Smacked Soy and Cucumber Salad, and a desert of Sticky Rice with Bananas.

ASA seamlessly integrated a celebration of culture with education about Asian cultures. Audience members were treated to beautiful cultural dances performed by community members. USU students provided the musical performances, one of which featured a Chinese two-stringed musical instrument called the Erhu, and a demonstration of how to play it. A USU faculty member also provided a story-telling performance.

The Asian Student Association created an educational video on what it is like to be Asian in the United States and Logan more specifically. They highlighted lighthearted differences, such as how strange some of them find it that people don't typically share food when they eat together in the U.S. They also address some of the more serious struggles they face with discrimination.

We received a lot of positive feedback about the event. In fact, a community member who has attended for the past four years said it was the best Finding Asia that he has ever attended. We look forward to celebrating Asian cultures again at next year's event!



Students from many clubs participated in and attended Finding Asia. Pictured here are students from our Asian Student Association (ASA), Polynesian Student Association (PSU), and Latino Student Union (LSU).

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Upcoming Events

January

20 It's Not Over: Martin Luther King, Jr. Candlelight Vigil
6-7:30 pm, USU Taggart Student Center Ballroom

22 Miss American Indian USU Pageant
Taggart Student Center Ballroom

February

21 Night of Soul (Black Student Union)
Taggart Student Center Ballroom

27 Powwow (Native American Student Council)
Grand entry 7 pm, Nelson Fieldhouse

28 Powwow (Native American Student Council)
Grand entry 12 pm & 6 pm, Nelson Fieldhouse

March

18 Free Film Screening: Up Heartbreak Hill (Native American Student Council)
Taggart Student Center Auditorium

20 Speak Easy (LIFE)

21 Luau (Polynesian Student Union)
Taggart Student Center Ballroom

31 Mental Health is No Joke: Keynote Speaker Alexis Jones
6-7:30 pm, Taggart Student Center Ballroom

April

1 Mental Health is No Joke: Workshop Series
11 am – 1 pm, Merrill-Cazier Library Room 101

2 Mental Health is No Joke: Cultural Perspectives on Mental Health Fair
Taggart Student Center, International and Sunburst Lounges

17 Day of Silence (LIFE)
Taggart Student Center, International and Sunburst Lounges

21 Speaker: Arnold Thomas, MSW
(Native American Social Worker and Spiritual Leader)
University Inn Room 507

22 Closing Social
Access & Diversity Center office, Taggart Student Center Room 315