FALLING INTO THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

We would like to thank all who made the Access and Diversity Center’s 5th Sub for Santa program a tremendous success! With the help of all our sponsors, we were able spread magic and joy to 22 Aggie families with a total of 65 children!

The Access and Diversity Center recognizes the importance of giving back to the Aggie community which has made the Sub for Santa program a loved tradition at our office. Student workers and volunteers were eager to help as we assisted individuals fill out applications, answer questions from sponsors, and sort through the many gifts that we received. We have been overwhelmed by the amount of generosity from our 27 sponsors who helped Aggie families in need during this holiday season.

Our office is so grateful for those that were able to contribute to our program and help make a difference in the life of others. We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and may it be filled with the spirit of giving!

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>LSU Taco Sale (TSC Patio)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Fiesta Americas (TSC Ballroom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Social Justice Art Gallery (In front of TSC Ballroom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Martin Luther King, JR Vigil (TSC Ballroom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>NASC Indian Taco Sale (TSC Patio)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>LIFE’s Gender Blender (Bullen Center)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Access and Diversity Center, along with LIFE (Love is For Everyone), IFSA (Interfaith Student Association), I Am That Girl, and NASC (Native American Student Council), sponsored Friendsgiving this year on November 24th from 3:00pm-5:00pm. We recognize that not everyone has the opportunity to spend time with their loved ones during Thanksgiving Break, which is why this event was created. Everyone was invited to attend, however, our event targeted students who were unable to go home for the holidays. The sponsoring clubs brought the main courses, and those who attended brought along side dishes to share. The turnout for this event was unbelievable, the food line was stretched all the way out the door and down the hall. Both sides of our office were full of students laughing and enjoying a meal together. We are thankful for the many individuals who make our job enjoyable. We look forward to Friendsgiving next year, and hope we have even greater turnout.

Thankful for Friendships
USU students having fun enjoying each other’s company and having a pleasant time at the Friendsgiving Dinner.

“It is always great when we have the opportunity to make new friends, especially around this time of year. Nothing brings people together like free food on campus!”

-Grecia Jimenez, Multicultural Intern

Yummy for the Tummy!
This tasty dinner was enjoyed by all the students. We made sure our dinner accommodated all different types of dietary needs such as gluten free, vegetarian, vegan and religious restrictions.

Ladan Mohamed satisfied look as she takes a bite of her Friendsgiving meal. She was very grateful that we had these food options available for students.

Turkey Carving at its Finest
Our very own program coordinators, Brooke Lambert and Noelle Wilson, helping out at Friendsgiving. Brooke was admiring Noelle’s carving skills with the 24 lb free range turkey and secretly wishing she could start eating. We would like to thank Access and Diversity Center for purchasing the turkey and Maria Varriale’s awesome cooking abilities.
Our very own Polynesian Student Union had the opportunity to practice their dancing skills and perform at the USU Junction on December 19th. The purpose of the event was for a surprise retirement party for one of their employees.

The event was a mini Luau in honor of their employee. The food was based on traditional Polynesian cuisine. Students and the community were able to attend the event with just one meal swipe, or pay $9 to enter and enjoy the traditional meal.

PSU members performed 3 dances and then invited the audience up to the stage to learn the Hukilau. After PSU performed, the Junction had a small presentation to honor their chef, Charlie for all his hard work over the 24 years of service at USU. They ended with a limbo contest where participants received prizes after.

We would like to thank USU Dining Services for allowing our club members to participate at this marvelous event. We would also like to thank the club members who volunteered their time during Dead week to make this event possible. The Access and Diversity Center and its students had a great time.

PSU loves doing community reach through dance. Kenrik Lopez, a PSU council member says, "Dancing is an integral part of Polynesian culture! One of the best ways to teach and learn about Polynesian culture is through dance! " We look forward to PSU's Luau in the spring.

If you would like to learn how to dance traditional Polynesian dances, PSU is looking for dancers for their upcoming Luau in April. Practices will be on Tuesdays from 8-9pm and Thursdays from 7-9pm.
BSU Closing Social

The Black Student Union held an Ugly Christmas Sweater party for their closing social. Everyone wore silly Christmas Sweaters and enjoyed time away from studying.

The Latino Student Union held a closing social during the week before Dead Week to help their members destress. They also celebrated their President Adrian Bustamante’s birthday. The closing social activities included yummy pizza, a white elephant gift activity, and the Loteria finale. Loteria is a game of chance, similar to bingo, but using images on a deck of cards instead of plain numbers on ping pong balls. Every image has a name and an assigned number. LSU has been playing a game of Loteria after every meeting. The winner of each meeting was chosen to participate in the championship.

IFSA’s & the Meditation Club’s Meditation Retreat

“Mediation retreat is a time to destress from worrying and regretting. Mindful meditation allow you to see more clearly. It is an ‘of the moment’ experience that allows you to drop the story of the past and the future and see who you are. Life happens at the present moment-- right now. It helps you connect to others and live life fully. You are able to let go. Meditation is helpful for anxiety and depression.”

-Jake Grossman, Meditation Club President
Stacie Dentsosie enjoying her hot soup.

PSU Wii Dance Closing Social

Lester Papa dancing his heart out at PSU’s closing Social.

PSU’s President, Matt Kimbrough, destressing himself from finals week and showing the PSU members that anyone can dance and have a good time.

We would like to thank our club officers and club members for making this semester a fun one for all of us to enjoy. We look forward to seeing you all in the spring and hope you have a fantastic winter break. Keep a look out for the spring semester club meeting times and opening socials.

Happy Holidays!

-Access and Diversity Center
Event Announcements

The Access and Diversity Center will be sponsoring the Martin Luther King Jr. Vigil on January 19, 2016. The purpose of this event is to remember and honor Martin Luther King, Jr. and what he stood for. We aim to bring awareness and educate individuals on important issues pertaining to Civil Rights. This event is free and open to USU students and the Cache Valley community. There will be a small presentation in the TSC ballroom. Afterwards, we will be directed to the outside of the TSC to start the candlelight vigil and walk around the University.

The Access and Diversity Center will be hosting their first-ever Social Justice Art Contest, where everyone is welcome to submit an art piece that portrays an issue they are passionate about. We hope this will help us reach out to a broader audience and bring an impactful experience to USU. This contest is open to anyone who is interested in participating. The top three of each category will receive a prize as well as have the opportunity to display their art piece in our office. For more information, please contact sandra.martinez@usu.edu or evelyn.hernandez@usu.edu.

The Latino Student Union will be hosting their Fiesta Americas Event on January 16, 2016. This event will consist of a dinner and a show. Tickets are $10 for students and $12 for non-students. There will be a poetry performance, singing performances, dance performances, contests, and much more! A local high school student will also win a scholarship that night to help fund his higher education. The money for the scholarship comes from money raised by LSU taco sales. For questions about LSU or Fiesta America, please contact LSU at LSU@usu.edu.

The Cache Valley Gay Straight Alliance will be sponsoring Gender Blender this year. The money raised will go towards our LGBT club on campus, LIFE. This year, the theme of the event is cosplay. Anyone is welcome to dress up as their favorite cosplayer or to just come and have a good time. The event will take place at the Bullen Center on January 23, 2016. For more information about LIFE or Gender Blender, please contact LIFE at LIFE@usu.edu.
How has your experience been so far at USU?

Since I started to get out of my shell, it has been fantastic. It met my expectations and more so. I have definitely felt a lot of support here at USU, especially here from the Access and Diversity Center.

What is something interesting about you?

I'm also a pyro technician, which means I shoot big display firework shows. I am also adopted and a nontraditional student at USU.

What's your favorite spot on campus and why?

My favorite on campus is the Access and Diversity center. There is so many great people. You get to interact with anyone and everyone. You can come here and not feel judged or mistreated. It is a warming and inviting place.

If you could describe yourself in one word, what would it be and why?

Nice. Because I am a really nice person! Sometimes too nice, but all I have ever heard growing up is, “Annie you are so nice”.

What moments in your life have made you feel strong/beautiful or confident?

Moments when I was doing the Vagina Monologues. It is a tough topic, but you feel so empowered working with a group of women who will stand behind you and boost you up. The stories have such an impact and there is nothing to do, but feel proud and strong.

What’s your experience been like as a nontraditional student?

I look younger than I am, so no one actually sees me as a nontrad. I can blend in with my surroundings, but at the same time I can share my wisdom with others. It is a unique thing on that, because I have the mind and wisdom of an older person and still the fun and energy of a young person.

Meet Annie Lantis, a nontraditional student at Utah State from Sandy, Utah. Annie hopes to study Elementary Education. She is also works for the Academic Success Center and a mentor for the PSY 1730 (Strategies for Academic Success).