Greetings!

I would like to welcome you back to campus! The start of the year is always a special time at Utah State. Opportunities to get involved are everywhere! New students, staff and faculty have arrived and we are looking forward to the rich and rewarding year ahead.

This is an exciting time in the life of our center. There are several events taking place during the fall semester. Dr. Ibram Kendi is coming to campus to speak on the history of racism. The Asian Student Association is hosting their Annual Autumn Festival, The Latinx Student Union is sponsoring Festival De La Herencia Hispana (Hispanic Heritage Festival), and several of our ADC clubs will be participating in the USUSA Global Picnic, just to name a few.

We are excited to announce we have a full staff! Alina Begay is a Multicultural Program Coordinator and advises the Latinx Student Union and the Native American Student Council. Macy Keith is our LGBQA Program Coordinator and advises L.I.F.E. (Love is for Everyone) and the Interfaith Student Association. Christian Stettler is a Multicultural Program Coordinator and advises the Asian Student Association, Black Student Union, and the Polynesian Student Union. I also work with Nontraditional Students. As always, I am here to assist any student.

We also have five amazing interns this year! Anna Afoa, Kennedy Carrillo, Tyra Hardin, Madeline Smith, and Elijah Toa are here to help support, connect, and create a fun and welcoming environment for our students.

Please stop by. We look forward to seeing new and familiar faces!

Sincerely,

Michelle

Michelle Bogdan-Holt,  
Director  
Access and Diversity Center  
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Events, Happenings, and Goings-On

Club Meeting Times

Asian Student Association
  Wednesdays @ 5:00 PM in MSS Lounge
Black Student Union
  Tuesdays @ 5:30 PM in MSS Lounge
Interfaith Initiative
  Thursdays @ 5:30 PM in MSS Lounge
L.I.F.E
  Thursdays @ 7:00 PM in ESLC 053
LatinX Student Union
  Tuesdays @ 4:00 PM in MSS Lounge
Native American Student Council
  Thursdays @ 5:30 PM in TSC 315A
Polynesian Student Union
  Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM in MSS Lounge

Upcoming Events

Sept. 25th: (CHaSS event) Keynote by Brenda J. Allen - LIB 101 @ 1:30pm.
Sept. 27th: Undocumented Student Panel - TSC Auditorium @ 6pm.
Sept. 30th: Nontrad Pancake Breakfast - Willow Park Rotary Pavilion @ 9-11am.
Oct. 4th: USUSA Global Picnic/LXU Taco Sale - Quad @ 11am-2pm.
Oct. 5th: Conversation with Bob Zeller-Tanner Talk - ESLC, room 130 @ 6:30-8:30pm.
Oct. 6th: ASA Mid-Autumn Festival - TSC Patio @ 5-8pm.
Oct. 12th: How to be an Anti-Racist with Dr. Ibram X. Kendi - ESLC Auditorium @ 6:30-9pm.
Oct. 16th: (USU TCI event) Making a Difference Keynote with Dr. Anna Z. Blau and Laura M. Mora - Old Main, Room 225 @ 6-7:30pm.
Oct. 21st: Nontrad family night at American West Heritage Center - American West Heritage Center.
Oct. 26th: Faculty & Staff of Color Luncheon - Alumni House @ 12pm-1pm.

When visiting our office, be sure to swipe your ID card or sign in with your A#. Everytime you do so, you will be entered to win prizes throughout the semester!

Ongoing Events

Mondays: LGBTQ Brown Bag - TSC Room 310 @ 12:30-1:30pm.
Mondays: Multi-Cultural Talk Story - TSC Room 310 @ 11:15-12:15.

Thursdays (Through Mid-October): Farmers Market - Northeast Quad @ 10:00am-3:00pm.
Past Events

Day on the Quad
Each year, new and returning students alike, are greeted with Day on the Quad, a day to learn about what activities, clubs and resources the University has to offer. The Access & Diversity Center, as well as each of the clubs had a table set up to inform students on how to join, upcoming events, and a taste of cultural tradition.

ADC Opening Social
This year’s Opening Social was a huge hit with our special guest, President Noelle Cockett! With yummy food that catered to our celiac, vegetarian and religious friends, as well as good company, everybody felt at home. We were welcomed to USU by Michelle Bogdan-Holt, the director of ADC, Dr. James Morales, Vice President for Student Affairs, and of course our new President, Dr. Noelle Cockett. The takeaway message for all: everyone and their beliefs are important and protected here at Utah State. Welcome home Aggies!

From the Land of Gandhi
On September 14th, The Access & Diversity Center hosted an event called From the Land of Gandhi. This topic was spearheaded by the amazing Prakash Wadhwa, who created this film. The film follows a group of people from India who move to America for the ‘American dream’ but quickly discovered it was far from possible. Due to the slow process of obtaining Green Cards. After viewing the heart-wrenching film together, a panel which included: Prof. James Feigenbaum, Prof. Erin Hoffmann, and Atty. Erin Byington, as well as Ryan Wilcox, a representative from Senator Mike Lee’s office, discussed possibilities to make the immigration process more efficient.
Carlos Andrés Gómez

On Sept. 15th, Carlos Andrés Gómez, award-winning poet, actor, speaker and author, delivered a workshop and keynote on campus in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15). He performed his poems “What’s Genocide?” and “Juan Valdez” and discussed gender stereotypes. If you are interested in reading his book Man Up: Reimagining Modern Manhood, you can find it on Amazon or visit his site at carloslive.com.

Aggies Think, Care, Act

How can YOU think, care, act?

Utah State University strives to be an inclusive campus. Aggies Think, Care, Act’s mission is to “work to immerse Aggies into a community of caring that values human dignity, equality, respect and safety for each member of the Aggie Family.”

Here are some ways that you can support an inclusive campus.

#1 Speak Up. Use your First Amendment right to show your support for fellow Aggies.

#2 Understand Free Speech. Know that your rights to free speech are protected even if it is an unpopular opinion.

#3 Organize. Host or organize informational events or positive rallies.

#4 Engage Carefully. Take precaution when counter-engaging with others during direct confrontation or online. Always consider your own safety and report personal attacks.

#5 Think Critically. Critically analyze your sources, make logical arguments and stay up to date on laws and policies.

#6 Support Other Aggies. Look out for those affected by offensive speech, reach out with emotional support, and take people’s word without questioning them.

#7 Inform USU. Keep an eye out for offensive, aggressive, or biased symbols/incidents and report them to the Office of Student Conduct, the Access and Diversity Center, the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity, or Aggies Think, Care, Act.

Campus Support, Reporting and Emergency Services

Access and Diversity Center: access-center.usu.edu. TSC 315. (435) 797-1728. access@usu.edu.


Counseling and Psychology Services: counseling.usu.edu. TSC 306. (435) 797-1012. Open 8-5 M-F.

Office of Student Conduct: studentconduct.usu.edu. TSC 220. (435) 797-3137. Open 8-5 M-F.

Aggies Think, Care, Act: aggiethinkcareact@usu.edu. facebook.com/aggiethinkcareact.

Please call Campus Police at (435) 797-1939 for after-hours emergency help on campus for trauma and life-threatening situations. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

CAPSA 24-Hour Crisis Line and Mobile Crisis Response team (for domestic violence and sexual assault services in Cache Valley): (435) 753-2500
A Beginner’s Guide to Becoming an Anti-Racist

By: Christian Stettler, ADC Multicultural Program Coordinator

#1 Have an open mind and be willing to look inward: Before we can really get started on the path to anti-racism, we must be willing to do so. Fighting racism is one of the most difficult things you will ever do. It’s inevitable that you will feel uncomfortable during this process. You may be feeling uncomfortable already. You will be forced to look inward, not just at yourself, but at your family, your friends, your community, your institutions, your country, etc. Trust me, becoming disillusioned to ideas you’ve become accustomed to believing, accepting, or ignoring is tough! Make a decision to be open-minded and be willing to look inward. The results will be worth it.

#2 Read Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi: Dr. Kendi assembles an exhaustive history of racist ideas using ‘historical tour-guides’ to traffic us back to the mid-1600’s, all the way to the present. Those who read Kendi’s book (or attend his lecture) may be surprised to find that they, themselves, have been unknowingly harboring racist ideas. The good news is that, if we are able to identify these racist ideas and admit that they are a part of our conscience, we might be liberated from those very racist ideas. For anyone wanting to become anti-racist, Kendi’s book is a must.

#3 Focus on racist ideas: Political discourse concerning race in America often devolves into arbitrary arguments about who/what is more racist. This is not only counter-productive, but most people don’t even realize that they are arguing under different definitions of racism. For this purpose, we’ll use Dr. Kendi’s definition: ‘any concept that regards one racial group as inferior or superior to another racial group in any way’. Kendi himself admits that he “held racist notions of Black inferiority before… Anyone can produce them or consume them” and adds that he was “fooled by racist ideas, I did not fully realize that the only thing wrong with Black people is that we think there is something wrong with Black people… and that the only thing extraordinary about White people is that they think there is something extraordinary about White people.” Start off by questioning any ideas or beliefs that you have about people or groups from different racial backgrounds. Where did you get this idea? Can you validate it? If you’re unclear about the idea, research it or speak to someone about it.

#4 Take advantage of the Access and Diversity Center: The ADC hosts several multi-cultural clubs, social events, and activities, which are all documented in this newsletter. Attend a Black Student Union club meeting or event. Get to know students that look different than you or come from a different background. Just remember to be respectful. It’s not our multi-cultural student’s responsibility to answer all of your questions and can be exhausting for them. The Access and Diversity Center facilitates a weekly “Multi-cultural Talk-Story” (aka talking circle or process group) where these topics are covered regularly. Think about attending and asking some of the difficult questions you might have.

#5 Attend Dr. Ibram X. Kendi’s keynote on How to be an Anti-Racist: If you are sincerely interested in anti-racism, this event is critical. Dr. Kendi is an expert on anti-racism. In addition to penning a book on anti-racism that made him the youngest ever to win the National Book Award for Nonfiction, he is the founding director of the new Anti-Racist Research and Policy Center. Dr. Kendi has stated that he wants to invite professors and students from across the country to collaborate on long-term projects and policy proposals. Dr. Kendi is currently our national expert on anti-racism. This is an opportunity you cannot afford to miss. Kendi’s lecture will be followed by a short Q&A session and a book-signing. October 12th, 6:30 pm in the ESLC Auditorium.

#6 Take a stand: Once you are able to start identifying racist ideas, challenge them! Not only in yourself, but when you hear Uncle Bill at Thanksgiving sharing, promoting or laughing about a racist idea, call him out on it! Educate everyone present on how/why it is a racist idea. These unchallenged ideas are damaging and worth standing up to. Search for causes worthy of fighting for. One example would be that if there are racial disparities on campus that are causing students of color to be underrepresented in our student body, within the faculty, or administration, ask yourself what is causing it? Instead of blaming people of color, you could look in the mirror and say, “How can we do things differently?”