Did you know that students who are involved in extracurricular activities achieve higher academic performance? It’s just one more reason to make student involvement a priority.

The Access and Diversity Center sponsors the following student clubs: Nontraditional Student Association, Latino Student Union, Polynesian Student Union, Asian Student Association, Black Student Union, L.I.F.E (Love is For Everyone), Native American Student Council, and the Interfaith Student Association. As you can see, there are so many ways to get involved. You are always welcome to join us!

In addition, our student clubs and staff work very hard to showcase different cultural traditions through events like Autumn Festival, Soul Food Dinner, and the 44th Utah State University Pow Wow, just to name a few. The Spring 2017 Newsletter was designed to highlight some of these events and the talented students who helped make them happen.

Enjoy!
Michelle Bogdan-Holt
Director of the Access and Diversity Center
The 44th Annual “Echoing Traditional Ways” Powwow hosted by Utah State University’s Access and Diversity Center and the Native American Student Council (NASC) took place March 3 and 4, 2017, at the USU Nelson Fieldhouse.

“The ‘Echoing Traditional Ways’ Powwow is one of USU’s longest-standing traditions,” says Alina Begay, the Access and Diversity Center Multicultural Program Coordinator. “We welcome the public to join us in this celebration of Native American cultures and tradition, and to enjoy a delicious Navajo taco and mutton stew.”

Approximately 2,000 people attend each year, including members of the local community, and it is the largest student group event on the USU campus. USU’s powwow typically launches the powwow circuit each year in Utah.

“As a powwow dancer, I have always seen powwow as a time to get together and to have a good time with the tribal community and our local community,” said Tyra Hardin, Treasurer of the USU Native American Student Council.

“We welcome everyone.”

As is customary, the powwow features competitive dancing and drum circle singing. Prizes include a $1,000 winner-take-all drum contest. Dance categories include: golden age, traditional, grass, fancy, jingle and tiny-tots hosted by Miss American Indian USU. The powwow will host three specials: women’s switch dance hosted by the USU Center for Women and Gender, head man special - Northern traditional and men’s switch dance hosted by NASC.

Powwows are held in the spring to celebrate the new beginning of life. “The powwow preserves a deep, lasting sense of family, pride and tradition, says Begay. “Behind the display of dance, music and vibrant regalia is sacred meaning.”

Head staff included: Head Man, Jeremy Garcia Standing Solider; Head Woman, Miss American Indian USU; Master of Ceremonies, Jerry Bear; Arena Director, Lane Neaman; and Host Drum, Eagle Chief from Fort Duchesne, Utah.
Martin Luther King Jr. Vigil

On January 17, USU students and members of the community gathered to celebrate the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr. Our event centered on the theme “Our Destinies Are Tied, Let’s Work Together”. Delina Hagos, a member of the Black Student Union from Santa Clara, California, presented on the work of Dr. King. In addition, Utah State University was honored to have Natasha Carrizosa, from Texas, speak at the event about the importance of unity. Part of her presentation included sharing some of her slam poetry to the audience. After Natasha Carrizosa spoke, Froylan Calderon, a member of the Psi Sigma Phi Multicultural Fraternity on campus, presented a video he created which featured members of the Black Student Union discussing the importance of unity, the civil rights movement, and Dr. King. The event ended with a candlelight vigil and march around campus to commemorate the work of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Every year Valentine’s Day invites activists in colleges, communities, high schools, or youth groups around the world to present select benefit events. The purpose of these events is to raise awareness about violence against women and girls as well as raise money (100% of the proceeds must be donated) for local beneficiaries that are working to end violence.

This year we raised $2,500, which will be donated to the Sexual Assault and Anti-Violence Information Office (SAAVI). The SAAVI office provides safe, confidential counseling, advocacy, and information to the Utah State University community. Students can contact them if they experienced or have questions about sexual assault, rape, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking.

SAAVI is building a “soft interview” room on campus. This room is meant to feel comfortable for students as they meet with law enforcement, title IX, student conduct, or anyone else the survivor needs to meet with. In order for law enforcement to use it, the room needs to be equipped with audio and video recording equipment and the funds raised at the Vagina Monologues will be used for this. In addition to the audio and video equipment, a fund for survivors will be created. Sometimes survivors will not get the medical care or medications they need because they are on their parents insurance and do not want their parents to know. The fund for survivors will be used to help in crisis situations and help with needs survivors may have.

SAAVI’s soft interview room will be ready for use in the fall 2017 semester.
Wasatch Rising Tide is an organization based in Salt Lake City which promotes environmental preservation. Natascha Denninger and Easton Smith, some of the founders of Wasatch Rising Tide, visited Utah State University to give a presentation about environmental justice through the use of art.

Mesoamérica Resiste is a nine year long project organized by the Beehive Design Collective, a volunteer based, grassroots organization who use art to convey complex global stories. The poster is double-sided and tells a story of resilience, resistance, and solidarity in Central and South America. The map is drawn in a colonial style and depicts the modern invasion of megaprojects, which are planned for the area. However, when you flip the paper over, it shows communities organizing both locally and across borders to protect their land, cultural traditions, ecological diversity, and build alternative economies.

**Mesoamérica Resiste**

Students looking at the posters for Mesoamérica Resiste.

Natascha teaching the group about what some of the symbolism means in the poster.
A chronicle consisting of three time periods--the childhood, adolescence and burgeoning adulthood--of a young, gay, black man growing up in a rough neighborhood of Miami.

The film received eight Oscar nominations at the 89th Academy Awards, winning Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor for Mahershala Ali and Best Adapted Screenplay for Jenkins and McCraney.

An astonishing testament to the power of empathy and love. Join us in the TSC Auditorium April 6th at 8:00pm and FIND YOURSELF in #MOONLIGHT.
Welcome Christian Settler, New Multicultural Program Coordinator!

We are so excited to welcome Christian Settler to the Access and Diversity Center as the new Multicultural Program Coordinator! Christian grew up in Salt Lake City, but did his bachelors at the University of Alaska and graduate degree at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. After moving back to Utah, Christian is happy to be a part of the Access and Diversity Center so he can be around people with different cultures, ideas, and lifestyles!

Christian likes reading, listening to reggae, watching the Utah Jazz, and spending time with his Fiancée and son in his free time. Christian also enjoys researching issues from mass incarceration to the problems that stem from oppression.

We are so excited to have you here, Christian!
Spring 2017 Issue

Michelle Bogdan-Holt
Director

Alina Begay
Multicultural Program Coordinator

Dorcee Winward
Administrative Assistant

Interesting in Joining one of our clubs?

https://usu.oes.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6ig7PvpNWxXGL6u

Macy Keith
LGBTQA Program Coordinator

Christian Settler
Multicultural Program Coordinator

Follow us on Facebook!
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