Every year, the Access and Diversity Center, along with its sponsors, hosts Sub for Santa. This year will be the program’s 5th Annual Sub for Santa. You may be wondering what Sub for Santa is. Sub for Santa is a program that helps children of Aggie families who are in need have the opportunity to receive Christmas gifts during this holiday season.

This program would not be possible without the support from our various donors. Each donor has the option to sponsor a child, a whole family, or even just provide a few bucks to help sponsor an child. We invite everyone to participate in this wonderful service opportunity to give to those in need. For more information on how to apply to be a Sub for Santa Recipient or to become a sponsor, please visit our website, www.usu.edu/access center or call our office at (435)797-1924. Our deadline for applicants will be extended to December 4, 2015.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November
23 BSU’s Tasty Wing Tuesday (TSC Patio)
24 Friendsgiving hosted by the Access and Diversity Center, NASC, LIFE, IFSA, and IATG

December
01 PSU Ice Block or Sledding
04 Sub For Santa Application Due
09 IFSA Meditation Retreat
11 BSU Ugly Sweater Party

Check your emails for Club Closing Social Dates!
Every year, the USUSA Diversity Vice President hosts Diversity Week. This year, Diversity VP, Luis Armenta, along with students from our office and other departments, helped create a fantastic week for USU students to enjoy. There were a variety of activities happening, such as International Dessert Night, a Giant Piñata, a Reggae Concert featuring Pati, Inter-Religious Speed Faithing, and an Epic Tailgate Fiesta. Students from the Access and Diversity Center participated by showcasing different talents our students have.

**BSU**

Black Student Union members Abby and Jasmine performed spoken word poetry at International Dessert Night called, *Black Is True*. This poem uses visual words to describe the origin of Black and African American culture. The poem highlights the idea that black culture is very diverse and cannot be restricted to one category or characteristic. The poem and the performance emphasizes pride in the beauty of their culture.

**NASC**

A member of the Native American Student Council Tyra Hardin performed a Jingle Dress Dance. This dance may be known as a healing dance, as it originates from a dream. By most accounts, the story tells of a young girl who was ill and was saved by performing this dance after it was shown to her father in a vision.

**PSU**

The Polynesian Student Union performed a dance known as The Sasa. This dance originates from Samoa. PSU aims to create a family environment to everyone, and claim USU as their home away from home. They expressed their Aggie Pride by chanting ‘USU’ throughout their dance. This amazing performance was choreographed by PSU Council member Anna Afoa.
On October 30, 2015, Utah State University welcomed around 200 Native American students from all around Utah. This is the first time that an event like this has taken place at Utah State University. Tribes from all over Utah and outside Utah were represented.

The students attended a variety of workshops that covered Admissions, Financial Aid, the Academic Success Center, and Campus Recreation. They also attended a student panel with USU students on what it is like to be an Aggie and had the opportunity to questions on what it takes to become a successful first-generation college student.

During lunch time, they were fed a traditional Native dish, Indian tacos and Indian bread. The delicious food was all made by volunteers who donated their time to make this event successful.

The overall purpose of Native Aggie Day was to give students a pre-college orientation day in hopes to recruit more Native American students to Logan Main Campus. We’ve noticed that the number of Native American enrolled students at USU have been declining, so this day focused on showing the students that an education at USU is very attainable.

According to evaluations filled out by the participating students, many are now keeping USU as a top priority when applying to higher education institutions.

Native Aggie day is sponsored by USU’s College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Access and Diversity Center, the Department of Psychology, the Native American Student Council, the Office of the Provost and the USU GEAR UP Partnership.

A special shout out to Multicultural Program Coordinator, Angela Enno and her intern Grecia Jiminez for working so hard to make this event a success.
On November 2, 2015, The Access & Diversity Center hosted its first ever Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead). This holiday focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember friends and family members who have passed away, and help support their spiritual journey. Traditions connected to this holiday include building private altars known as “ofrendas,” honoring deceased using sugar skulls, marigolds, Pan de Muerto, the favorite foods and beverages of the departed, and visiting graves with these gifts.

Throughout the day, the Latino Student Union sold tacos and Pan De Muerto, hoping to raise enough money for their annual cultural event Fiesta Americas; where they will be awarding local high school seniors with a scholarship.

This event brought together USU students and the Latino community in Cache Valley. Activities throughout the event consisted of face painting, a photo booth, decoration of sugar skulls, and a section where participants could write a message to their loved one who have passed away. In addition, Access and Diversity held a screening on the movie, The Book of Life. It is a story of a young man named Manolo on his journey through three enchanting realms, where he faces his greatest fears while learning to follow his heart and embrace the future. All activities of this event were free for all students and the whole community. Every activity was made possible by those who volunteered their time to make this event a success. We look forward to Dia de Los Muertos next year!
Nontraditional student awareness week was from November 2nd to November 6th. There were activities throughout the week that students could participate in. Students had the chance to be entered to win a $50 gift card for each activity they attended. There were activities such as writing thank you letters, Stress Break with the therapy dog, a workshop by the Academic Success Center, meet and greet with our staff, as well as a lunch with the Nontraditional Student Association. The Nontraditional Student Association is a club that is part of the Access and Diversity Center. The club hosts monthly activities that are family oriented and more affordable. An individual is considered a nontraditional student when they are 25 years of age or older, have taken a break from school for at least three years, or have additional obligations, such as a full time job or a family. There are currently 949 nontraditional students who attend our USU Logan campus. Nationally, 26% of undergraduate students are parents and 13% of undergraduate students are single parents.

Clothing Swap
The reason that the clothing swap is so important is because trans individuals or nonbinary individuals often feel uncomfortable shopping for clothes that match their desired gender expression. It’s always uncomfortable to get weird looks from people who think you are shopping for clothes in the wrong section (a male-looking person purchasing typically female clothes). By providing these individuals with an opportunity to bring an exchange clothes, we give them a space where they feel comfortable, supported, and validated. After the clothing swap, we received emails expressing appreciation for the event. By allowing people to bring in clothes, we are providing access for trans and non-binary people.

Bulletin Board
I searched the internet and found different infographics containing important statistics about trans individuals. Some of these topics include information on trans immigrants and the struggles they face; information about students’ rights to gender expression on campus; reasons why supporting trans youth can positively impact their future; several ways to make schools safer for LGBTQ students; etc. We posted several of these info graphics in an effort to highlight why trans awareness is important and how it is a very real concern on every campus, even a public university in northern Utah. I also included the “Gender Unicorn”, a diagram that parses out the difference between Gender Identity, Gender Expression and presentation, Sex assigned at Birth, Sexual attraction and Romantic or Emotional attraction. When people start to learn about how these different aspects of gender, sexual, and romantic identities work separately from each other, it becomes easier for them to understand the lived realities that LGBTQ identifying people face.

My largest focus was to include information that speaks positively about differences in sex assigned at birth and gender identity/expression.

Often we find rhetoric in schools that invalidates Trans individuals simply by the language used in handouts and posters. Using inclusive language often differs from the terms. Using inclusive language often differs from the terms that are normalized in more conservative areas and can help people realize how their words can severely impact Trans individuals. The final part of the bulletin board was a quotes section. I looked for empowering quotes by trans identifying individuals.

It is important to showcase trans folks in a school setting because it is rare to find education material that includes trans voices. Many trans people only see high profile trans individuals on the internet, not in a hallway bulletin.

-Jake Howard, LGBTQA Intern

TRANSGENDER AWARENESS WEEK
NOVEMBER 16-20
If you could share a piece of your culture with everyone what would it be? The food! Hands down! The food is so good, you can just snack on it, it is light. My favorite is lumpia, it is like an egg roll, but better. It is in a thin wrapper and you can choose a meat, we usually do ground beef and really finely chopped onions, carrots, and seasonings. We wrap it up and then we deep-fry it. It is super good! You just munch on it like potato chips.

What do you like to do for fun? I have made a lot of friends since I joined PSU. I also volunteer at Aggies Elevated which is for students with disabilities. It is fun to associate with them and watch them excel. I also volunteer at Sound Beginnings, a preschool for kids with cochlear or hearing aids. It is fun to watch them grow and learn and to have a fun time with them. I also work on campus, I am part of a research project and I am a grader for a class.

Sounds like you are involved with a lot of different things, not just fun stuff. Do you have any advice you would like to give other students? I would say just to go out and try new things. Go out of your way to talk to your professors and get to know people, because I feel like if you are too much into your bubble, you are going to miss out on a lot of experiences. Being a senior and realizing that I am graduating in a semester I am kind of sad that is almost over. It is more than just an education. This the time to build relationships and take opportunities.

Hillary's Favorites
-Hobby: Painting Custom Canvases
-TV Show: Grey’s Anatomy
-Music Genre: Country
-Food: Filipino! Chicken Adobo with rice.
-Candy: Fast Break
-Color: Green, because it reminds me of nature
-Gum: Winter-fresh
-Drink: Coke; it gets rid of my headaches

Meet Hillary Olivete from Tucson, Arizona. Hillary is studying Communication Disorders and Deaf Education and will be graduating in the Spring. She chose this major, because she felt like it was a good middle between education and medical. She decided to come to USU because she felt like it was a welcoming campus. She also received help from the Diversity Specialist. She decided to transfer to USU, because she wanted a new environment and wanted to be challenged more.

Interesting in Joining one of our clubs?

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November 2015

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Human of Diversity