

# The Access & Diversity Center



ACCESS & DIVERSITY CENTER STAFF  
2012

## OUR MISSION

The mission of the Access and Diversity Center is to promote access and full involvement in all aspects of student life at Utah State University. This center serves as a catalyst for the creation of a campus and community environment where all people are free to affirm and celebrate their differences, including but not limited to differences of race, sex, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, class, age, ability, and parental or veteran status.

## Director's Message

I hope this letter finds you enjoying a peaceful and much anticipated spring. With your help, we have witnessed another graduating class realize their educational dreams. Of course, it is always bittersweet to witness this powerful transition. Strong relationships are created and as student services professionals, we become extended family to many students. We continue to be inspired by our students' hard work and dedication; often time, against amazing odds. This is also an opportunity to thank you for the

invaluable role you have played in our students' lives. Your contribution has made the difference for many of our students. In some circumstances, it has determined whether or not a student has been able to continue their education. You are always at the very top of the list of folks to thank and we hope this newsletter gives you some insight into the wonderful things that are happening.

*Michelle Bogdan, Director  
Access and Diversity Center*

## Revitalized Non-Traditional Student Programs

In January 2012, Rachel Brighton assumed responsibility for Non-Traditional Student Programs. The ensuing months have seen much growth and new energy infused into this program. Here are few of the highlights.

*Lounge Facelift.* Small investments can make for big dividends. New paint, donated furniture, and a few homey touches have made the Access & Diversity Center's TSC 313

Lounge a gathering space supportive of Non-Traditional students. The Lounge sports a home-like atmosphere with several amenities to meet student needs: comfortable couches, lap desks, computers stocked with basic office supplies, kitchen station (refrigerators, microwave, and paper products donated by Dining Services), group study table and whiteboard, information center, and toy box for children.

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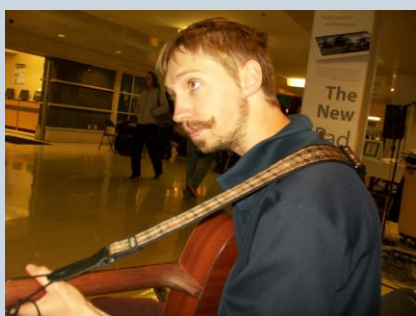
Students are enjoying the new space and its many features.

*Rapid Learning Drop-In.* Non-Trad students have unique constraints on their personal resources and time, and prefer information delivered in succinct manner. Taking these factors into consideration, the Access & Diversity Center in partnership with the Academic Resource Center created Rapid Learning Drop-In to provide ongoing opportunities for Non-Trad students to recharge, socialize, and connect to relevant

expertise, all in as little as 10-15 minutes. Students have responded enthusiastically and have welcomed the regular opportunity to meet with their peers and discuss relevant issues.

*Non-Traditional Student Association (NTSA).* Once again, taking into account the unique profile of Non-Traditional Students, the NTSA was reorganized to better serve its members. The restructured organization continues to be co-advised by ADC and ARC staff, but is now governed by a four-member

student Advisory Board. Students serve a full academic year, but are only required to fulfill a 5 hour a month commitment, with clearly outlined responsibilities. They will host monthly activities and will provide feedback that will influence the direction of Non-Traditional Programming at Utah State. Once again, student's have responded with enthusiasm, and the Center saw an immediate influx of those wishing to apply for open leadership positions.



ETHAN DEVILBISS,  
MEMBER OF UNCOMMON  
COLLECTIVE AND  
AFTERSCHOOL MENTOR

## Student Highlight: Ethan Devilbiss

Ethan Devilbiss, a member of the Uncommon Collective and an afterschool mentor at Edith Bowen Laboratory School, applied for and received a grant from the USU Sustainability Council to install a garden on the Edith Bowen grounds. Since receipt of the grant, the project has acquired new partners and has expanded to become a Green House that will be built on the south wall of the school allowing year-round use. Travis Sapp, a member of the West African Drum group and master carpenter, will be designing and building the green house. Jenifer Sapp and Alana Nafziger, both expert gardeners, will be working with Afterschool Club staff and the

Edith Bowen science teachers to develop a curriculum that can be used in both day school and afterschool settings. The curriculum and partnership will include the USU Organic Farm and students from Cache High. Cache High recently built a green house on site, complete with full climate control, and had not found a use for it. Our team will be working with the science faculty at Cache High to create a gardening/entrepreneur club that will work with the Edith Bowen School and with the USU Organic Farm. Proceeds from sales of the produce will be used to sustain the project. We are proud of the Ethan and the legacy he is creating in our community.



MARIO PEREYRA,  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

## Access & Diversity Welcomes Mario Pereyra

We are excited to announce the latest addition to our staff: Program Coordinator, Mario Pereyra. Mario will be advising the Native American Student Council, Latino Student Union, and Asian American Student Council. Originally from Houston, Texas, Mario is a recent graduate of BYU (B.S. Human Development). During his time at BYU, he spent over three years working with Multicultural Student Services assisting with programs such as SOAR (Summer

of Academic Refinement), cultural events (Fiesta, Luau, Pow Wow, etc), and Freshman Foothold (an undergraduate mentoring program). Mario also performed in the multicultural dance group Living Legends, where he toured Argentina, Paraguay, and Chile. While in Utah County, he also taught *Latinos in Action*, a leadership development course for high school students. Mario is a welcome addition to the Access & Diversity Center family.

## LGBTQA: Change, Excitement, and Opportunity

Wonderful changes and opportunities are on the horizon for our LGBTQA programs. The year ended with exciting news: L.I.F.E. voted to become an official Access and Diversity Center club. The Center looks forward to having L.I.F.E. fully participate with other Access & Diversity clubs in the upcoming school year.

During June, L.I.F.E. and Allies on Campus will take part in Salt Lake Pride, June 1-3. L.I.F.E. will host a table in the main festival area on Saturday, June 2, from 3pm-11pm. L.I.F.E. and Allies on Campus will join forces to sponsor a float in the Pride Parade that takes place on Sunday, June 3, at 10am.

July will bring a Utah State first:

L.I.F.E.'s 2012-13 President, Kennedy Tripp, and club advisor, Brooke Lambert, will be heading to Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee to participate in "Camp Pride." Kennedy and Brooke will participate with student leaders and club advisors from around the country, and have opportunity to learn from exciting and knowledgeable speakers such as Zach Walhs (affectionately known as "the kid from YouTube"), Kristin Russo and Dannielle Owens-Reid of EveryOneIsGay.com, and many more. They look forward to bring back great ideas we can implement here at Utah State.

Here's to an exciting summer and coming back even stronger next fall!

## 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Native American Pow Wow

This year marked USU's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual "Echoing Traditional Ways" Pow Wow, which celebrated the beauty of the Native American culture. People from diverse tribes, nations, and states came to support and compete in the different dance and drum categories. This year, over 1,000 people attended the event, helping it become one of USU's most successful Pow Wows yet. The Access & Diversity Center's Native American Student Council (NASC),

the event's host, and Pow Wow Coordinator, Sandra McCabe (a senior graduating in Dietetics), worked tirelessly to ensure the success of this year's event. Thanks to the generosity of donors, without whom the Pow Wow would not occur, the Pow Wow experienced enormous financial success. NASC, its supporters and donors, along with an army of volunteers, made possible a powerful cultural gathering and an enjoyable experience for all.

## Latino College Fair & Fiesta Americas

The Access & Diversity Center is passionate about reaching out to the community in order to remove barriers to, and promote the pursuit of, higher education. The Center hosted the annual Latino College Fair with the objective of exposing Hispanic families in Cache Valley to the resources and academic programs available at Utah State University. Access & Diversity was pleased to feature James Morales, USU Vice President for Student Services, as the keynote speaker as

well as representatives from various colleges across campus. Immediately following the Latino College Fair, the Access & Diversity Center's Latino Student Union (LSU) hosted *Fiesta Americas*, formerly known as *Salsabration*. The event featured authentic cuisine and beautiful performances. Students planned and rehearsed for several months, and were thrilled to host local high school students as performers in the show. This year's event was different than most: its

## Access & Diversity Center Rolls-Over to New University Template



During Spring, Access & Diversity joined the ranks of many departments who are rolling over to Utah State University's redesigned web template. "The pages are built around the standards of the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) HyperText Markup Language (HTML) 4.01 and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)," says USU PR, "allowing for compatibility with assistive technologies (such as screen readers) and mobile devices." According to University PR, goals for the redesign included: conform to latest W3C standards and recommendations, refresh USU's look, enhance the university's brand identity, and more fully integrate dynamic content and multimedia. The template roll-over has benefitted the Access & Diversity Center in several ways: (1) it offers a sleek, updated look; (2) it provides a consistent left-side navigation bar, allowing web patrons to seamlessly navigate each program area while maintaining the overall feel of a unified website; and (3) it offered the opportunity to update and enhance web content. We invite you to test-drive our site, and welcome your feedback. We're dedicated to improving our media outreach to students, staff, faculty, and community.

## EVENTS

### MAY

Utah Leadership Academy

### JUNE

Salt Lake Pride

Non-Traditional SOAR

Non-Trad Rapid Learning Drop-in

### JULY

Non-Trad Rapid Learning Drop-in

### AUGUST

Non-Traditional SOAR

Non-Traditional Connections

### OCTOBER

National Coming Out Day

### NOVEMBER

Veterans Day

AASC Cultural Event

### DECEMBER

World AIDS Day



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key focus was continuing education. The culmination of the event came as a local high school student was awarded a \$500 scholarship from the Latino Student Union (funds were raised by students solely for this purpose) to support the pursuit of a college education. After the event, a

generous donor approached the Center and offered to donate an additional \$1200 to fund the remainder of the scholarship finalists; the donor was deeply touched by the students' desire to work hard and create better futures for themselves and their communities.

## Educational Outreach & the Alliance for Youth

The Alliance For Youth is a group that includes USU Access and Diversity Center, Logan City School District, Cache County School District, Logan City Parks and Recreation, Cache County 4H and the Bear River Health Department. "Uniting resources to make a difference for youth" is our motto and collectively we serve more than 3000 young people in Cache Valley each day in afterschool programs. Our collaboration also allows us to write much stronger grant proposals and to share data efficiently. As Federal and State funding diminish, we are always

looking for new ways to keep our programs solvent. This year we have been working on a proposal to become a partner member of the United Way of Cache Valley (UWCV). After submitting the proposal and giving a presentation to the UWCV board, its members visited several of our sites. We are happy to report that we have just been accepted as a UWCV partner member. Over the next months we will be working with UWCV to build this partnership in a mutually beneficial way to better serve our youth.

## Veterans Program

We have had another successful year with our Veteran's programming. Currently, in the USU system, we have 211 individuals using their chapter 33 (Post 9/11) Education benefits, and 156 students utilizing other Veterans Administration Educational benefits. With the end of *Operation New Dawn* and impending drawdown of *Operation Enduring Freedom*, we

anticipate our veteran numbers will continue to grow. With this anticipation, we have begun to set a strong foundation of opportunity for our returning veterans, including unlimited participation in the Veterans Education Yellow Ribbon program. Yellow Ribbon will allow any student utilizing full Chapter 33 benefits to attend USU free of tuition and fees. We look forward to growth in this critical area.

## Supporting Student Success through Scholarships

Funding is a key form of support most needed by underserved populations. Currently, the Access & Diversity Center is steward over 31 scholarship funds that support a range of students including students of color, first generation college students, and returning students. Additionally, our office is the access point to several Veteran based scholarship opportunities. These scholarships, made possible

by generous donors, change lives; with funding, persistence to graduation becomes a reality. During the 2011-2012 academic year, we awarded 149 students over \$309,000 in scholarship funds. We look forward to completing this year's awarding cycle, and along with our students, express our deep gratitude to those who have helped make dreams of higher education obtainable.