

The Access & Diversity Center



ACCESS & DIVERSITY
CENTER SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS, 2012-2013

OUR MISSION

The Mission of the
USU Access & Diversity
Center is to promote
inclusion, support
student **retention** and
academic success,
enhance student's
educational
experience, foster
responsible citizenship,
and develop **diverse**
student leaders at
Utah State University.

Director's Message

Greetings! I hope this finds you enjoying a peaceful and much anticipated summer season. Prior to the start of my tenure at Utah State University eight years ago, I was a caseworker in a variety of settings with adults, adolescents, children and families. I recognized then how the lack of educational opportunity contributes to a host of challenges including poverty, crime, and chronic unemployment. I witnessed what an enormous difference education makes. Several years later, I was given the opportunity to make a difference for students at Utah State University. **Your contribution assists students who otherwise would not be able to attend this university. The education you have made possible means a positive change in worldview, lifetime skills and a feeling of self worth.**

From my days as an Academic Advisor, to the Director of the Women's Resource Center, and now as the Director of the Access and Diversity Center, I have experienced the extraordinary level of dedication on behalf of

Utah State University to our underrepresented students. The Access and Diversity Center strives to instill a sense of leadership and stewardship in every student we meet. We find inspiration in hearing students speak of hope and a commitment to making a positive difference locally and globally. The men and women with whom we serve are underserved, often first generation, and reentry students. Attending Utah State University has changed their lives and the lives of their families. I sincerely hope those changes will reverberate in positive ways throughout later generations. **Gifts that increase endowments and support for scholarships make a tremendous difference to our students. Every gift counts.**

Please enjoy the latest edition of our Access and Diversity Newsletter as we celebrate all our students continue to achieve! We hope you will continue to manifest your interest and commitment to a better future through support of our programs and scholarships. We value our partnership with you. Thank you,
Michelle Bogdan

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www.usu.edu/accesscenter/





LOGAN CAMPUS PINNACLE HONOREES: JAKKI HANSEN (LEFT), SKIE JENSON (RIGHT)

Bringing New Life to Pinnacle Honor Society at USU

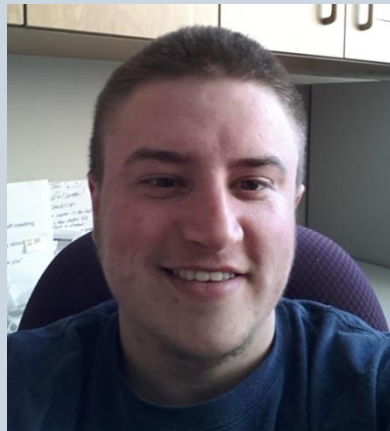
Pinnacle Honor Society, founded in 1989, recognizes the academic, service, and leadership achievements of nontraditional students nationwide. USU's chapter was founded that same year, with its first members inducted in 1990. Over the years, USU's chapter lapsed into dormancy; something the Access & Diversity Center has worked to reverse. During spring,

ADC reactivated this program and partnered with Regional Campuses (RCDE) to offer membership to student system-wide. Students responded with eagerness. An induction ceremony, officiated by the VP of Student Services, was held in April, recognizing new members from Logan and RCDE campuses. Congratulations to our accomplished honorees.

ADC Scholarship Program Announces 2013-14 Awards

Scholarships are a critical form of support offered to students through the Access & Diversity Center. Currently, ADC is steward of over 30 scholarship funds supporting a range of students including multicultural, LGBTQA, and nontraditional students. During this

year's awarding process, the ADC Scholarship Committee was able to extend assistance to 47 students, totaling nearly \$60,000 in awards. We express our sincere gratitude to the many donors who make this program possible, ensuring that our students complete their education.



ALEC PLAYER, NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT

Student Highlight: Alec Player

Alec joined the Access & Diversity Center staff this fall, and serves as one of our very capable student workers. He is a California native and a dedicated, nontraditional student who serves as a role model to others returning to school after a significant gap in their education. Alec brings a tremendous amount of skill to his roles within our center. He has a keen eye for detail, is our in-house computer and software expert, and has already played a

key role in crucial ADC projects. Alec is exploring major options at this time that will best prepare him for a Masters degree in Architecture. When he is not working in the center or supporting our wide variety of student clubs as a volunteer, Alec is the proud Papa of four furry babies: Tubby, Coon, T.J and Princess, all of which are Maltese with the exception of Tubby who is Maltese/Yorkie mix.

First Annual Mini Spring Break Experience

International students are a vibrant part of Utah State University. Most have come from distant parts of the world, often precluding regular travel home due to expenses. What are the options for students staying in town for Spring Break? Catch up on homework? Spend time with friends? A group of dedicated folks from the Access and Diversity Center, the Office of Global Engagement, and Counseling and Psychological Services came up with the idea of piloting a Mini-Spring Break for Access and Diversity and Global Engagement students. A day filled

with friends, diversity, and fun became the priority for this event. A variety of morning workshops were facilitated on topics including "Cultural Communication," "Stress Management," and "Leadership." Lunch was provided and the gang took off to one of the area hot springs for an afternoon of soaking and conversation. Approximately, 35 students participated in the first event and we hope this is but one of many opportunities for students to connect and develop friendships that transcend all cultures.



FIRST ANNUAL MINI SPRING BREAK, MARCH 2013

Utah Pride Festival Selects USU Student for One of Two Statewide Scholarships

The Utah Pride Festival, a program of the Utah Pride Center, awards two scholarships to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) and ally students. Each year, the Festival selects two students from a field of candidates enrolled in Utah institutions of higher education. One scholarship is awarded to a matriculated traditional student (a graduating senior from high school entering a college or university the following fall semester). The other is awarded to a nontraditional (a student who took one or more semesters off after high school before enrolling in a college or university) or currently enrolled student.

This year, from its pool of candidates, the Utah Pride Festival selected a USU student as one of its honorees. Lee Furse will receive his scholarship at the Pride Festival on June 2 in Salt Lake City. When speaking with Lee after his award had been announced, he was still in disbelief that he was one of two Utah students chosen to receive a scholarship.

In order to receive this scholarship, Lee was asked respond to a series of questions, one of which

addressed how he educates others about the LGBTQ community. Among other things, Lee is an experienced panelist for OUTSpoken. OUTSpoken provides interactive student panels for academic courses and other venues at USU and in the surrounding community. Panelists open themselves up to their audience, tell their story, and invite students to ask questions. Lee has been very active in these panels and enjoys being able to share his story in hopes that education can help others be more supportive.

When asked how he has achieved PRIDE in his sexual orientation/gender identity he responded with, "I've never felt more comfortable with myself, than I do now. With the help of my partner, I've been able to continue with college, start my transition, and even accept my family's unrealistic expectations. I know I have a hard journey in front of me, but I am me. I am a man with a wonderful partner, a man with a full life in front of him." We congratulate Lee for his accomplishments.

Latino Student Union & "Fiesta Americas:" Giving Back

During March, the Latino Student Union (LSU) was proud to present their annual "Fiesta Americas" with a *Sabor Latino* (Latin Flavor) theme. Once again, they treated everyone to dinner and a show. The students planned for months and rehearsed over and over to perfect their performances. This year, our students continued reaching out to local junior high and high schools by inviting many of the Latino youth and their families to be a part of this great event. LSU members volunteered in area schools to assist younger students with dance choreographies and several other

preparations. Last year's LSU council raised the bar when they awarded two \$500 scholarships to incoming freshman. This year, our students went above and beyond, collaborating with Youth Discovery Inc., to award five incoming Latino freshman students \$500 scholarships. Although dancing, singing, and great food are a major part of "Fiesta Americas" and Latin culture, so is higher education. For this reason, LSU continues to raise money and partner with sponsors to maintain the tradition of giving back to the community and paying it forward to future generations.

EVENTS

MAY

Utah Leadership Academy

JUNE

Salt Lake Pride

Traditional & Nontrad SOAR

JULY

Traditional & Nontrad SOAR

AUGUST

Connections

Nontrad Connections

Day on the Quad

SEPTEMBER

Homecoming

OCTOBER

National Coming Out Day

NOVEMBER

ASA Finding Asia

DECEMBER

BSU/LIFE World AIDS Day



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Charting Our Course: ADC Core Beliefs and Revised Mission Statement

Knowing why you do what you do makes all the difference. An organization's "why" creates the foundation from which springs the entirety of what they have to offer. As a center, we are excited to

share our newly articulated core beliefs which fuel our revised mission statement and in turn drive the "how" and "what" of the work we do. This new model will become the foundation of how we

work with students and will drive a series of assessment and evaluation efforts by our department over the coming year. We look forward to powerful things to come.

