

The Access & Diversity Center



HOMECOMING 2012

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Utah State University Access and Diversity Center is to promote access, enhance students' educational experience, partner for retention, foster responsible citizenship, and develop diverse student leaders at Utah State University.

Director's Message

Seasons Greetings! As we reflect upon the year, we express our most sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported the Access and Diversity Center. Our staff has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to creating a campus that is diverse and accessible to everyone. Our students bring an energy and excitement each and every day. Our colleagues throughout the division and campus consistently advocate for the work we continue to do. Lastly,

our donors continue to demonstrate a generous and unwavering commitment to our center and the students we serve. As we look forward to an exciting New Year, we carry this overwhelming support with us as we continue to grow and evolve.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Michelle Bogdan, Director
Access and Diversity Center

ADC Clubs: A Doorway to Student Success

The Access and Diversity Center (ADC) not only strives to provide the best possible experience for our students while here at USU, but also seeks to develop leaders for the future. ADC student clubs and organizations continue to be a crucial avenue for student development, inviting fledgling leaders to step out of their comfort zones, challenge their skills, and maximize their strengths. Our students gain valuable experience learning to work together in teams in pursuit of common goals. Student leaders manage meetings,

work within allotted budgets, and create clubs that are both inclusive and inviting to all. The main success of these clubs comes from the work and dedication of our clubs' executive officers. They contribute countless hours planning and executing activities as well as educational experiences meant to engage fellow students. The fruits of their labors are readily apparent. Increasing numbers of students are participating in club experiences; as a result, they are experiencing a sense of belonging and support that leads to academic success.

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www.usu.edu/accesscenter/





Ashley Ewaniuk
LIFE Executive Council

Student Highlight: Ashley Ewaniuk

Ashley is an Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Science major, with a concentration in Animal and Dairy Science; she hails from Twin Falls, Idaho. Ashley was an active participant in USU's Army ROTC program; this May she will commission. She and her partner will be moving to the LA area where she will assume her new role as Platoon Leader in the 693rd Quartermaster Company for the United States Army. In her spare time, Ashley enjoys playing pool (she is involved in the USU Billiards Club and the Cache Valley Pool League). She says, "As my girlfriend can attest, I can also be quite a nerd." She has an extensive comic book collection

and enjoys a good RPG video now and again.

Currently, Ashley helps oversee front desk operations in the Access and Diversity Center, and serves as USU Advocate in the ADC's LIFE club. Her position enables her to function as a liaison between the club and campus administration, as well as to represent the needs and concerns of club membership to LIFE's Executive Council. Her club position has enabled her to play an active role on campus and within campus's LGBTQA community. Her goal is to help build a safer and more inclusive environment for students who will come after her.



Dorcee Winward
ADC Budget Assistant &
Nontraditional Student

Student Highlight: Dorcee Winward

Ms. Dorcee Winward, nontraditional student and Budget Assistant for the Access and Diversity Center, brings a special understanding of what it is like to balance work, school and family. This mother of three and doting grandmother of two, has completed her third semester at USU. Originally from Pocatello, Idaho, Dorcee moved to Cache Valley in 1990

after living in several different parts of the country. We are lucky to have Dorcee as a part of the center. Always quick with a smile and a warm hug, Dorcee is greatly appreciated. She is dedicated to supporting students and our students know she is here to help. Cheers to Dorcee for taking a giant step towards her educational goals!



Due to the generosity of individuals, departments, and organizations, Santa was able to visit the homes of several of our students and their children.

Sub for Santa: Hope During the Holidays

As many families can attest, balancing finances when one or both parents are working to complete a college degree is challenging at best. During the holidays, when young children revel in the magic of the season and anticipate a visit from Santa, student's with children feel a particular burden and weight on their shoulders.

Enter the Access & Diversity Center's Sub for Santa program. This program works to bring relief and joy to USU students and their children. This year, we were

delighted to have our intern, Sonina Hernandez, take the lead in orchestrating our efforts. She worked enthusiastically to connect with students needing assistance, and to secure the help of individuals, departments, and organizations who could meet the needs of our families.

In all, the Access & Diversity Center and its sponsors were able to provide gifts for 14 families, with a grand total of 30 children.

This program, and the relief and hope it provides to so many, would

Sub for Santa, cont'd

not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. In particular, we wish to recognize the outstanding efforts of USU Dining Services who raised over \$1200, sponsored over half of our families, and provided additional support to all families by way of gift cards to cover household necessities.

NTSA, Connections, and Newsletters, Oh My!

The 2012-2013 year has brought with it exciting growth in our Nontraditional Student Programs.

The Access & Diversity Center's Nontraditional Student Association (NTSA), which was reorganized in Spring 2012, is moving forward with new energy and determination. During August, the NTSA held its first elections in several years; a number of students responded to the call for NTSA Advisory Board candidates. In order to make the election process accessible to as many busy nontrad students as possible, campaigning and elections occurred through digital tools such as the Nontraditional Student Listserv, YouTube, and Survey Monkey. This streamlined approach was a success and enabled many students to participate in the process of electing their leaders. Election results yielded a dynamic and active group of leaders: Melanie Barlow, Bradley Bastian, Paul Purser, and Lori Wood. Our board went to work immediately and planned a series of events for the academic year. Their activities are always family friendly and provide

Our families send their heart-felt thanks to all who made this Christmas season a bit more bright and hopeful. To all of you who contributed to the success of this program, we offer our gratitude and best wishes this holiday season.

opportunities for nontrad students to interact and feel supported. The NTSA and its advisor, Rachel Brighton, also launched a Canvas account for the club. This digital campus tool enables regular communication with members.

As of Fall 2012, the Access & Diversity Center assumed responsibility for instructing the nontraditional section of Connections. Program Coordinator, Rachel Brighton, has enjoyed this new challenge. The course is designed to connect students to academic strategies and campus resources that lead students to success.

Just prior to Fall semester, a team of nontrad students was formed and charged with the task of creating a bi-monthly publication written by nontraditional students, for nontraditional students. The result: an aptly named newsletter called "No-Nonsense Nontrad." Our editorial board, under the lead of Jill Harmon, has generated two issues thus far, and looks forward to continued success during Spring semester.

Access & Diversity Internship Program

ADC hosts an internship program to prepare students for professional experiences following graduation. Our interns have been busy this fall shadowing and assisting Program Coordinators in the work of our center. Interns have assisted with

or taken the lead on such projects as PR/marketing, OUTSpoken panels, Sub for Santa, Finding Asia, Pow Wow, and Human Library for Access and Diversity students. We look forward to continued success with this program in 2013.

Access & Diversity Center's 1st Annual Scholarship Reception

The ADC's first annual Scholarship Reception held November 6, 2012 at the Haight Alumni Center, celebrated 96 scholars, their academic accomplishments, and the generosity of donors who help make their success a reality.



Scholars and guest speakers, Sonina Hernandez (left) and Lacey Haggan (center)



Attendees enjoy speakers



ADC Scholars socialize following the reception

SPRING EVENTS

JANUARY

BSU: MLK Celebration
Rapid Learning Drop-in
NTSA: Know your Funding

FEBRUARY

BSU: Soul Food Dinner
LIFE: Vagina Monologues
Living Legends Tour
NASC: Miss AIUSU Pageant
NASC: Native Week

MARCH

NASC: 40th Annual Pow Wow
NTSA: Spring into Fun
PSU: Luau
LSU: Fiestas Americas
Rapid Learning Drop-in

APRIL

LIFE: National Day of Silence
NTSA: Closing Social
Rapid Learning Drop-in



**"USU Access &
Diversity Center"**



"UtahStateAccess"

Finding Asia

Finding Asia: "Year of the Dragon," formally known as *Tip Toe into Asia*, was a great success this year. All of the students in the Asian Student Association (ASA) worked tirelessly to ensure that this year's event achieved excellence. Club officers and members planned performances, décor, and food preparations. ASA launched a successful advertising campaign in which all members played a part. Due to their hard work, the event surpassed its goal of 150 participants, their highest attendance in many years.

The night started off with delicious Asian cuisine prepared by our catering staff and soon gave way to

the entertainment. This year, students not only danced and shared their musical talent, but also educated the audience on different aspects of Asian history and current events. An ASA member shared his personal experience of the hope and humanity that came in the aftermath of the devastating 2011 tsunami in Japan. We were also privileged to hear a firsthand account of a Cambodian survivor who lived through the Khmer Rouge; she is the mother of one of our students. The night ended with a group dance number by ASA in which nearly every member of the club participated. All in all, the students and audience were treated to a wonderful night of food, fun, and enjoyment.

National Coming Out Day

On October 11, the LGBTQA students at USU gathered in the International Lounge to Celebrate National Coming Out Day. The day is celebrated once a year and gives the LGBTQA community an opportunity to celebrate being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or an ally. This year, our students wore shirts with slogans such as, "I'm out!" "Queer," and "Shhh...no one knows I'm gay!" There was also a tunnel to walk through featuring different coming out stories from celebrities and local individuals. Students were given the opportunity to write their name on a piece of paper, along with how they identify, and tack it up on the board.

Most importantly, students were able to make an "It Gets Better" video. The "It Gets Better Campaign," was started by Dan Savage who made a video to LGBT youth. His message: keep holding on because things will get better. There have been tens of thousands of videos posted to his website which are available for viewing. The Utah State University LIFE Club plans to compile all of the videos made during its event and make an "It Gets Better at Utah State" video. This effort has been a huge success thus far; the project is currently in the editing stage and will later be posted online. Overall, National Coming Out Day was a huge success!

ADC Celebrates New Student Spaces

ADC has undergone many changes as of late. It has been sad for us to see our Veteran and Educational Outreach programs move to other departments, but we know they will continue to press forward and help students find success. With their departures, however, comes opportunity. Our LGBTQA library has been moved into the central ADC offices. It has been a pleasure

having this resource in the heart of our center. Our Native American students have also received a new room where they can study, mingle, and feel a sense of security that had been lost for a time. Both groups are extremely grateful for the role administrators played in allowing them to obtain spaces where they can be themselves and enjoy one another's company.