

The Access & Diversity Center



SOCCER TOURNAMENT
2013

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Access & 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

Thanks to you, the Access and Diversity Center is celebrating our fourth year! Your willingness to support our students and staff has made a tremendous difference. Over the past four years, and with your help, we have been able to serve over 3000 students and offer financial awards to 337 scholars. Your donations made it possible for our students to reach their academic goals. We would love to give you a tour of our office so you can meet our staff and students.

We would also love to keep you in the loop with our emails and newsletter. Please contact our office at 435-797-1728 to be added to our email list. If you are interested in contributing to our scholarship fund, please visit www.usu.edu/advancement or contact 435-797-1320 or 1-888-OLD-MAIN.

Again, thank you for all you do for our students. We wish you a very happy and peaceful holiday season. Sincerely,

Michelle Bogdan, Director

New LGBTQA Mentoring

The Access and Diversity Center (ADC) has added one more resource for LGBTQA students. The LGBTQA students now have a mentoring program. Students from previous years stated an interest in reaching out to students who weren't quite ready to come in and meet people yet. After much deliberation the mentoring program was built.

This program is designed for students who might be struggling, or have questions about their sexuality, or about LGBTQA issues in general.

These students can pick out their mentor by going to our website and reading bios of the five mentors. Once they have one selected, they can email back and forth with the mentor they selected.

STAY UP TO DATE
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

www.usu.edu/accesscenter/



LGBTQA Mentoring Cont'd

There are five mentors that have been selected through an application and interview process. Once the mentors were selected, they also had to go through training and answer sample questions. Each mentor wrote their own biography. Our mentors are anxious to help fellow students through whatever difficult process they are

facing.

We are very excited to be able to serve more students and see this program grow. To contact a mentor, connect to our website and look for LGBTQA Programs.

Saying Goodbye and Good Luck to Mario

We would like to wish Mario good luck with his future endeavors. He began at the Access and Diversity Center in February of 2011. He has been very active in all of the ADC clubs and activities. He was able to connect with the students and make a strong impact on their lives.

According to student and intern Jon Mejia, "Mario was a big brother to everyone in the ADC. He was always pushing you to do better, helping you when you had a bad day, and kept you in check when you were doing bad in school."

We would like to take this time to wish Mario good luck in his new position. We are sure you will do great things, Mario!

In his short time at Utah State, he helped with multiple multicultural events such as, Finding Asia, Pow Wow, Luau, and Fiesta Americas. Mario was instrumental in bring Living Legends to the USU campus last winter.

December Events To Celebrate:

December 1 is World AIDS Day, which was created to commemorate those who have died of AIDS, and to acknowledge the need for a continued commitment to all those affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

December 8 is Bodhi Day, a holiday observed by Buddhists to commemorate Gautama's enlightenment under the Bodhi tree at Bodhgaya, India.

December 10 is International Human Rights Day, established by the United Nations in 1948 to commemorate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

December 12 is Feast Day at Our Lady of Guadalupe. This day commemorates the appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531.

December 16-24 is Las Posadas, a nine-day celebration in Mexico commemorating the trials Mary and Joseph endured during their journey to Bethlehem.

December 25 is Christmas, the day that Christians associate with Jesus' birth

December 26 – January 1 is Kwanzaa, an African-American holiday started by Maulana Karenga in 1966 to celebrate universal African-American heritage. It is observed by lighting candles to represent each of the holiday's seven principles, libations, feasting, and gift giving.

Sub for Santa: Hope During the Holidays

As in years past, the Access & Diversity Center's Sub for Santa Program experienced growth in 2013. This year, under the leadership of Grecia Jimenez and Dorcee Winward, the center was able to serve 24 student families and their children. "I have appreciated the opportunity to work on Sub for Santa. It has been such a great experience so far. It's amazing to see how our University steps in to help Aggie families for the holidays! We are one great big happy family," says Grecia Jimenez.

ADC's Sub for Santa program was once again thankful to team-up with USU Dining Services, a key partner in making this program a reality. "The work that Dining Services has put forth is unbelievable! Their team spent several hours of hard work raising over \$2,000 for this program, meeting the needs of 25 children," says Dorcee Winward.

Sub for Santa, cont'd

The Access and Diversity Center would like to extend a thank you to the many other departments, organizations and individuals who donated time and effort, gifts, and resources to the program, making holiday magic possible for so many families. ADC and its Sub for Santa program wish everyone a merry and joyful holiday season.

Paul Purser Joins ADC Staff to Assist with Nontraditional Programs

This fall, the Access & Diversity Center was excited to welcome Paul Purser to its staff to assist with select Nontraditional Student Programs. One of Paul's key responsibilities has been overseeing the center's successful Rapid Learning Drop-In (RLD) Program. As a nontraditional student himself, he understands the importance of such programming to students. "I have benefited from the resources available on campus and I hope to help other students find the resources they need. One of the challenges we face is getting them to ask for help and to make them aware of the resources available to them. RLD gives them the opportunity to get help and learn about campus resources in a non-threatening environment," says Paul. During the semester, Paul brought back popular session topics such as "Making Math Your Friend," while also introducing new topics such as "Mindset." With spring semester around the corner, Paul has a fantastic line-up of topics planned for students including: "Being an Intentional Student," "Nutrition: Eating for

Good Grades," and "The Joy of Depression," to name a few. In addition to Rapid Learning Drop-In, Paul coordinated a November event which brought local celebrity 'The Grocery Guru' (Ken Rosenberg) to campus to speak to students about shopping strategies and saving money. Audience members had the opportunity to shop with Ken following the event, experiencing his techniques first hand. Each shopper walked away with a full Thanksgiving dinner, four boxes of cereal, and a gallon of milk for less than \$6. "Students are notoriously poor and nontraditional students even more so. The great thing about his program is that it is not time consuming like other couponing programs plus, it covers a wide array of items from groceries to gasoline." The event was a great success and the Access & Diversity Center hopes Ken back to campus again next academic year.

Gender Blender

LIFE (Love Is For Everyone) was able to collaborate with Cache Valley Gay/Straight Alliance and help with this year's Cache Valley Gender Blender. The Gender Blender is a community event that supports the LGBTQA and gender

variant community. The Gender Blender is a dance where those who choose can dress as either a man or a woman or whatever they choose in between. This year's event was well attended and all proceeds went to LIFE.

Street Painting 2013



SPRING EVENTS

JANUARY

BSU: MLK Celebration
ADC/CWG: Sojourner Truth
Rapid Learning Drop-in

FEBRUARY

PSU: Luau
BSU: Soul Food Dinner
NASC: Miss American
Indian USU Pageant
Rapid Learning Drop-in

MARCH

NASC: 41st Annual Pow Wow
LSU: Fiestas Americas
Rapid Learning Drop-in

APRIL

LIFE: National Day of Silence
Rapid Learning Drop-in

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Diversity Center"

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Finding Asia

Asian Student Association hosted their annual Finding Asia event on November 9th, 2013. This year's theme was "A Night in the Orient," complete with dinner, musical and dance performances, and presentations to educate the audience about various Asian countries. The entertainment had several performances covering a wide range of Asian countries and cultures. These performances were musical numbers done in native language, a young girl performed the "Flower Jump Dance," and a performance done by the Weston Lay and Megan Anderson where

they sang a song together in Japanese. The event concluded by giving thanks to everybody that supported the club and getting picture taken with everybody that attended the event.



National Coming Out Day

On October 11, the LGBTQA students at USU gathered in the International and Sunburst 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. Following last year's tradition, 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, faculty, staff and community members were given the opportunity to write their own "coming out" story.

These stories ranged from coming out to parents, themselves, or friends and included people coming out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, allies, pansexual, and many other identities. This was a great way to get a lot of people involved. It was a great way for people to connect to the LGBT community. LIFE also had Allies and PFLAG represented with a table where people could sign up for information or just find out a little bit more about each organization.

ADC Interns

ADC has three interns this year. Jon Mejia is working with most of the multicultural groups and is hard at work making sure the Pow Wow will be another huge success this March.

Austin Winegar is the third intern and he has been doing a lot with the LGBTQA programs. In particular, he has been in charge of the OUTSpoken panels this year.

Alec Player is working with non-traditional students as well as BSU. Alec has been working hard getting things ready for ADC scholarships as well as helping with media and PR.

All three interns have helped with recruiting this past fall. They help keep the ADC running smooth and are instrumental in making sure students feel supported.