



Diversity Dialogues

Purpose: These workshops, which will be offered on a regular basis, will focus on a variety of diversity awareness and social justice topics. Students will receive a stamp for every workshop they attend—students, who have completed a minimum of three workshops during the Fall and Spring Semesters, will earn a “Diversity & Leadership” certificate and will be recognized for their efforts at the Student Leaders Reception in May.

Workshop Schedule

Fall Semester 2015

Communication Across Cultures

September 10, 2015

1:00 to 2:00 PM

Student Center, I-209

Presented by: Heather Belk

Each person’s preferred communication style is shaped by their own experiences, beliefs, culture, and background. Your experience is your reality, just as someone else’s experience is their reality. This impacts both how you perceive messages and how you communicate. In this workshop, participants will learn the impact of culture on communication and develop skills to successfully communicate in diverse settings.

Ms. Belk teaches a variety of communications courses in the Department of Communication and Theater at Point Loma Nazarene University, and she is also the Director of Associated Students at the University of California, San Diego. Ms. Belk received a Master’s Degree in Higher

Education Leadership from the University of San Diego, and she is passionate about helping college student leaders develop leadership skills.

Diversity & Social Justice

September 23, 2015

11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Student Center, I-207

Presented by: Grace Bagunu

In this highly interactive workshop, participants will experience diversity on a whole new level. Participants will learn about social justice related concepts as well as effective communication skills with working in diverse groups.

Ms. Bagunu facilitates seminars on communication and leadership skills at UC San Diego. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Leadership Studies at the University of San Diego.

Understanding Diversity through Mediation and Personal Narratives

September 30, 2015

10:30 to 11:30 AM

Student Center, C-145

Presented by: Jocelyn Pacheco

This session will explore personal narratives to better understand the meaning and importance of multicultural/diversity competence. Mediation techniques will be explored to properly handle conflict when addressing diversity issues.

Ms. Pacheco has a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a MA in Postsecondary Educational Leadership with an emphasis in Student Affairs from San Diego State University. Jocelyn is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in higher education from the joint doctoral program with Claremont Graduate University and San Diego State University.

Day in Solidarity with African People: Reparations for Stolen Black Lives

October 6, 2015

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Performing Arts Theater

Presented by: Omali Yeshitela

This presentation features Omali Yeshitela, who is a leader of the African Socialist International. He will discuss how whites and other allies can support the struggle of the black community in recognition of the millions of African lives stolen by police murder, mass incarceration, extreme poverty and other conditions that rest upon a six hundred year legacy of colonialism, slavery and genocide.

Chairman Yeshitela is a leader of the African Socialist International, and he leads the world wide struggle for African liberation.

Creating Conditions that Foster Engagement Among College Men of Color

October 8, 2015

1:00 to 2:15 PM

Student Center, I-207

Presented by: Dr. Frank Harris & Dr. Luke Wood

Student "engagement" is a common concept often used among educators in conversations on student success in college. However, rarely is a more fundamental question posed: Have we as educators made our students feel 'welcome' to engage? In consideration of this question, Wood, Harris, and White (2015) proposed the concept of "welcomeness to engage," which refers to the conditions created in and out of the classroom that communicate to students that institutional agents (faculty members, counselors, advisors, etc.) want to authentically engage them. During this session, the presenters will highlight barriers that impede student engagement—particularly among historically underrepresented and underserved students.

Dr. Harris is an Assistant Professor at San Diego State University. His research focuses on issues concerning college men and masculinities, gendered trends in postsecondary learning environments, and student development in higher education.

Dr. Wood is an Assistant Professor at San Diego State University. His research focuses on community colleges, specifically in the areas of ethical leadership and decision-making, Black male achievement, and leadership development.

Counseling and Advising Men of Color in Community College

October 21, 2015

2:00 to 3:15 PM

Student Center, I-207

Presented by: Dr. Frank Harris & Dr. Luke Wood

Counseling and advising practices play a critical role in the success of community college students—particularly those who have been historically underrepresented and underserved in education. In this workshop, the presenters will propose and discuss intrusive counseling and advising strategies that have proven effective in serving community college men of color equitably and responsibly.

Dr. Harris is an Assistant Professor at San Diego State University. His research focuses on issues concerning college men and masculinities, gendered trends in postsecondary learning environments, and student development in higher education.

Dr. Wood is an Assistant Professor at San Diego State University. His research focuses on community colleges, specifically in the areas of ethical leadership and decision-making, Black male achievement, and leadership development.

An Overview of the Safe Zones Program

November 3, 2015

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Student Center, I-207

Presented by: Moriah Gonzalez-Meeks & Lauren Vaknin

The Safe Zones training program is an ally training that brings awareness of LGBTQIA issues and provides insight on improving campus climate. During this session, the presenters will provide an overview of the training materials and provide participants with sample activities, discussion topics, and resources that can be adapted in your student organization.

Ms. Gonzalez-Meeks is a History instructor at Cuyamaca College, and she teaches in the Women's Studies department at San Diego State University. Her research and teaching focuses on women's history, Mexican and Mexican American history, as well as U.S. history with an emphasis on underrepresented groups. She is also the faculty co-chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee at Cuyamaca College.

Dr. Vaknin is the Associate Dean of Student Affairs at Cuyamaca College.

If you have attended three workshops during the 2014-2015 school year, please turn in your signed form to Lauren Vaknin in the Student Affairs Office (I-120) by May 13, 2016.

For additional information on the Diversity Dialogue Program, please contact Lauren Vaknin in the Student Affairs Office at 660-4295.