

UNLV STATUS REPORT TO THE CHANCELLOR

Dates

October 1-December 31, 2008

Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion

Major Events and Activities

CAMPUS-WIDE OPEN FORUM DISCUSSIONS ON THE BIAS INCIDENT/HATE CRIMES POLICY DRAFT

On Wednesday, November 19th, 4-6 p.m., Monday, November 24th, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., and Tuesday, December 2nd, 7:30-9:30 a.m., all members of the UNLV campus community were invited and encouraged to "Open Comment" on the draft UNLV Bias Incident/Hate Crimes Policy as requested by the NSHE Board of Regents. UNLV staff members with roles pertinent to the proposed policy were in attendance at all three discussions to provide pertinent background on the draft policy as well as to answer questions about how it relates to non-discrimination, campus climate and safety, conduct and discipline, freedom of expression, and/or academic freedom. The draft policy was also posted online at: <http://provost.unlv.edu/committees/policy/> so that comment could also be made via e-mail to: policycommittee@unlv.edu. Additionally, the faculty and professional staff senate, classified staff council, and undergraduate and graduate student government were contacted to solicit comment from their leadership and members. The faculty and professional staff senate also provided a forum for comment at their December 11, 2008 meeting.

LATINA/LATINO HERTIAGE MONTH EVENT WITH GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON AND MUJAHID RAMADAN

On October 10th, 2008, Student Diversity Programs and Services (SDPS), with support from the Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, hosted New Mexico Governor, Bill Richardson, and local human relations and diversity consultant, Mujahid Ramadan, on the UNLV campus as guest speakers for the one-day, second annual Students of Color Leadership Symposium. Governor Richardson and Mr. Ramadan spoke to an audience of 600 students, faculty, staff, and local community members about the importance of developing leadership skills for doing social change work.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERTIAGE MONTH EVENT WITH SHERMAN ALEXIE

On November 20th, 2008, the Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, in partnership with the Institute for Multicultural Education and Diversity Training and the Research Center for Social Justice hosted acclaimed writer, Sherman Alexie, on the UNLV campus. Mr. Alexie spoke to an audience of 200 students, faculty, staff, and local community members about issues impacting Native communities as well as about national and global politics from the critical, sociopolitical, and irreverent lens for which he is most well-known.

THINK ABILITY FAIR

On October 8th, 2008 the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and Student Diversity Programs and Services (SDPS), with support from the Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, hosted UNLV's second annual "Think Ability" Fair. This fair is designed as an information fair focused on providing resources for, and raising awareness about services available to, individuals with disabilities in Las Vegas and the southern Nevada region. Information presented at the fair featured included, but was not limited to, assistive technologies resources, housing services for the blind, assessment and evaluation services for the Deaf, and disability advocacy resources. Additionally, the fair increases knowledge in the UNLV about resources and services available to people with disabilities, especially students in the UNLV campus community.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

On November 25th, 2008 the Jean Nidetch Women's Center, in partnership with the Department of Women's Studies, Student Diversity Programs and Services' (SDPS) International Programs, and the Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, hosted an event to raise awareness of, and encourage prevention of, violence against women around the world. Dr. S. Charusheela, the interim chair of the Department of Women's Studies, delivered the event keynote address focusing on transnational issues of violence impacting women.

Capital Campaign Update

NONE NOTED

Campus Issues or Challenges

LACK OF ADEQUATE STAFFING & FUNDING TO ACCOMPLISH INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION GOALS

While the Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion made extraordinary strides in its first year and is continuing to do so this second year, it has been severely disadvantaged in its ability to accomplish much, much more due to a now persistent lack of adequate staffing and related funding. While budget challenges pervade the campus, through the strategic reorganization of several related units under the diversity and inclusion function, ample human and capital resources could be brought to bear on this office's efforts, enabling it to increase the effectiveness of these efforts, easily ten-fold.

Successes and Accomplishments

MR. JOSE LUIS MELENDREZ TO THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Mr. José Luis Melendrez UNLV Assistant Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, was selected as the Las Vegas Latin Chamber of Commerce's 2008 Public Service Awardee for his work, especially with youth, in the Greater Las Vegas community. This award was given at the Chamber's Annual Gala on October 11th, 2008 at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel & Casino.

UNLV-TV: *ethniCITY* SHOW

Two innovative and talented journalism and media studies students and an adjunct faculty member with content expertise in diversity studies have developed and are producing the new UNLV-TV show titled, *ethniCITY*. The show focuses on the broad range of topics related to ethnic and racial diversity that are of importance to UNLV students. The show also promotes diversity-related events and initiatives on the UNLV campus. Three pilot episodes have aired to date. Through a collaborative partnership with the Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion and the Institute for Multicultural Education and Diversity Training, 13 additional episodes of this monthly show are slotted for production.

DEVELOPMENT OF UNLV PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY STATEMENT

Through the Vice Presidential Commission on Diversity and Inclusion, an ad hoc sub-committee has been formed to draft a Principles of Community Statement to reflect the identity and values of the UNLV campus community. Once drafted, this statement will be vetted with campus governance bodies and the campus community at large, revised according to their feedback, finalized, and forwarded to the President for formal adoption.

MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION AND DIVERSITY TRAINING

The Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion provides education and training outreach on the broad range of subjects related to equity, diversity, and inclusion. This quarter, the following offerings were solicited by campus stakeholders from the Office:

October 1, 2008 Multicultural Curriculum Transformation, Sociology Department Faculty
Development Workshop, Presenter

October 7, 2008 White Identity Development, Guest Lecturer

October 10, 2008 American Council on Education (ACE) Women in Leadership Conference, Keynote

October 13, 2008 The Role of Diversity in Higher Education Leadership, Interview

October 17, 2008 Impact of Identity on Leadership by Geography, Interview

October 23, 2008 The Role of Diversity in Higher Education Leadership, Interview

October 28, 2008 Diversity and Leadership in the Public Affairs Professions, Guest Lecturer

November 5, 2008 Race Relations in the 2008 Presidential Election, Panelist

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion is actively engaged with a number of community-based entities. This quarter, there was outreach to, and engagement with, the following community partners:

Best Buddies Nevada

Boyd Gaming

Branch Hernandez & Associates

Congress of African American Nevadans (CAAN)

Harrah' Entertainment

IGT

MGM MIRAGE

Nevada Partners

NVEnergy

The Cultural Diversity Foundation

The Family Leadership Institute

The Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce

The Las Vegas Latin Chamber of Commerce

The Soka Gakkai International-USA Las Vegas Region

The Southern Nevada Ready for Life Committee on Youth

The Urban Chamber of Commerce

The Ward 5 Chamber of Commerce