

Diversity Committee

Members:

Lily E. Espinoza, Chair  
Vince White, Secretary  
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Josue Abarca, Classified  
Lily E. Espinoza, Management  
Lourdes Oropeza, Classified  
Kim Orlijan, Faculty  
Annie Liu, APIA  
Paul McKinley, DSS  
Bob Miranda, LFSA  
Andre Strong, BFSA  
Olivia Veloz, Management

Special points of interest:

- Fund for Dreams
- Value and Dignity
- Treasure in our Midst
- One Book, One College

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FULLERTON COLLEGE ELEVATING EXCELLENCE.

Diversity on Campus

Issue #3

Spring 2011

Message from the Chair by Lily E. Espinoza, Ed.D.

We have made it through one amazing year! As I reflect back on the achievements and accomplishments of the Diversity Committee, I have to say that we have made some great contributions to the college and to the campus for students, faculty, and staff.

The year started off with distressing news about our state's fiscal affairs. We have lost some trusted and valued adjunct faculty and part-time employees as a result. In addition, there have been enormous cuts to services and classes to a degree that we have not seen in recent history. Yet, for a college as old as Fullerton College, we know the value of pressing on and looking toward the future.

Looking toward the future is exactly what we must do to ensure that those who come up after us have the opportunity to benefit from this world-class college. With that in mind, the college is presently preparing to celebrate the centennial of Fullerton College. Diversity will surely take a central role as we reflect on how much this college has changed over the years and the new opportunities that lie before us.

As for the Diversity Committee, we are preparing for the future as well with a newly elected chair. Join me in welcoming Kim Orlijan as the 2011 Chair of the Diversity Committee. She has already taken on some responsibility of the committee and acted as a



Diversity is the door to inclusion and respect

facilitator during the recent Campus Diversity Forum that took place May 4th. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in addressing diversity issues. Her role as a faculty liaison will be a welcomed change to the committee. As we press on to the new challenges facing the college, I have faith that we will continue with the work of building a respectful and inclusive campus. Have a great summer!

A Fund for Dreams by Jonathan Ruiz, ICC Representative (FC Student)

On March 26, I was fortunate to attend a fundraiser hosted by the Fullerton Dream Team that took place at Café West in Fullerton. The main attraction for this fundraiser was an open mic set, a belly dance performance by Akasha Starr, and a variety of affordable and delicious food, in which I had the pleasure to indulge. They had diverse styles of acts by very talented and ambitious Fullerton College students, Dream Team members and other participants out of the organization.

Together, they were certainly

able to satisfy a majority of the people's taste in music and keep the audience at the pinnacle of entertainment. This fundraiser turned out to be a success because they got an abundant amount of people, and they were able to raise about \$755 which will be partly used to provide scholarships for AB 540 students. One of the Dream Team's goals is to further awareness about the Dream Act and other issues pertaining to immigration reforms by organizing events like this fundraiser. Some AB 540 students got the opportunity to

share their stories and contribute to the Dream Team's goal by reciting poetry. This artistic vocal expression helped the audience have an idea of the importance of why we need to advocate the Dream Act and bills that can offer solutions to some of the issues facing undocumented students.

Overall, the Dream Team was able to get their message across and also provide a very social and friendly atmosphere in which both students and faculty were able to enjoy.



Step into appreciation, not just a tolerance for diversity

***“Multiculturalism is not a “national burden” but a “national treasure”***



Try on new personal and social perspectives to better understand diversity

## Value and Dignity By Vincent White

I am proud and honored to have served another year as the President of GLADE and as its designated representative on the Fullerton College Diversity Committee. I am very pleased to announce that GLADE continues to be an active and viable organization. This year, we welcomed three new members two of whom are allies to our community - GLADE welcomes allies to our organization; members do not have to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT)! In addition, GLADE continues to maintain an active presence in the district. As part of our mission/purpose, GLADE:

### **Provides a support group for and fellowship of LGBT employees of the NOCCCD.**

We continue to hold annual meetings for our members, maintain a listserv to inform our members of current and relevant topics of interest to the LGBT community, and host informal gatherings during the holidays and/or end of the year.

### **Fosters a liaison between GLADE, other employees, and other employee support groups.**

GLADE has maintained a continuous presence at the Fullerton College Diversity Committee

meetings and contributed to the creation of the Campus Diversity Forum. We participated in the President's Community Discussions and the District Diversity Training. We continued to foster good relations with our sister organizations of Latino, Black, and Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) Faculty and Staff Associations by coordinating a joint meeting with the new campus president and providing assistance to the newly formed AAPI Faculty and Staff Association. We honored the work of Amanda Walzer and the Creative Writing Committee with our Ally Award for their efforts to bring prominent gay author, Alistair McCartney, to the campus. GLADE has been present at community events such as the OC Human Relations Commission panel on bullying and the Directors of LGBT Center Directors' meeting. Lastly, GLADE has agreed to a request by the Director of the UCLA Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Campus Resource Center, Ronni Sanlo, to contribute an article to the Community College Journal of Research and Practice.

**Provides support and mentorship for the gay and lesbian students.** GLADE members continue to be faculty advisors at both the

Cypress College and Fullerton College LGBT student clubs. This year, we awarded two scholarships and two book awards to our students whose activities have contributed to the advancement of LGBT causes while fostering a positive image of the LGBT community. These students and our Ally Award recipient will be honored at our first GLADE Reception.

I am honored to continue as the President of GLADE and its representative on the Diversity Committee for the 2011-2012 academic year. I will continue to ensure that LGBT issues are not a sidebar or afterthought in discussions related to diversity but an equally valid concern for our campus and district. I will continue to advocate for a seat at the table in our continued effort to advocate for a campus/district climate that goes beyond mere “toleration” of LGBT persons, but one that affirms the value and dignity of our community.

## College Work Study – The Treasure In Our Midst By Olivia Veloz

Fullerton College (FC) has an enthusiastic and resourceful treasure within our midst – College Work Study! The FC Financial Aid Office provides funds that are earned through part-time employment to assist students in financing the costs of postsecondary institutions – this program is most commonly known as the College Work Study (CWS) Program. College Work Study students can receive funds at approximately 3,400 participating postsecondary institutions. Institutional financial aid administrators at participating institutions have substantial flexibility in determining the amount of the awards to provide to students who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment. Hourly wages must not be less than the federal minimum wage. (<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/fws/index.html>) When comparing 2009-10 to 2006-07, the Academic Support Center has seen

over a 30% increase in the number of students visiting its Centers: Skills Center, Tutoring Center and Writing Center. However, the number of staff serving these students has remained relatively stable. We are fortunate to have approximately 20-25 CWS employed each semester throughout our Centers who represent the diverse makeup of our college population, to help us serve our students! Historically, the CWS hourly employees who often seek work in the ASC are most often students who come from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds and whose first language is not English.

As the Director of the Academic Support Center, I feel that having the CWS Program allows staff and students to mutually gain from this working relationship:

*The CWS Program enables...*

- the ASC to grow our programs and stay within budget
- the staff an opportunity to mentor students from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- the CWS hourly employee an opportunity to not only practice their English but also acquire marketable skills
- the ASC staff an opportunity to appreciate the cultural differences of our diverse students
- the ASC an opportunity to offer our resources to a greater number of students.

I encourage managers to call Elaine Oropeza, Financial Aid Technician, at 714-732-5284 and learn more about the Treasure In Our Midst! mind!



Diversity means inclusion, cooperation, and movement toward mutually shared goals

**“Diversity means celebrating contributions and achievements of all people in society”**



Representation of diversity needs to go beyond token levels

### Ground Rules to Open Dialogue

- 1.) Be respectful of each other
- 2.) Be open to differing points of view
- 3.) Actively listen to each other
- 4.) Use "I" statements
- 5.) Speak from personal experience, not hearsay
- 6.) Focus on task, not opinion
- 7.) Everyone's participation matters
- 8.) Listen without interrupting
- 9.) Do not judge
- 10.) Acknowledge each other's ideas/feelings

**DIVERSITY  
COMMITTEE**

The committee meets the first  
Wednesday of each month in  
Room 227 3:00—4:30pm

The Diversity Committee is online  
[http://cadena.fullcoll.edu/  
campus\\_diversity\\_committee.htm](http://cadena.fullcoll.edu/campus_diversity_committee.htm)

**One Book, One College** By Kim Orlijan, Ph.D. (Chair-elect)

On March 10, Pulitzer-Prize winning author Sonia Nazario visited Fullerton College as part of the One Book, One College effort. Nazario's book *Enrique's Journey* stems from a series of *LA Times* articles that garnered Nazario the Pulitzer.

The book focuses on a teenager named Enrique who travels from Honduras, through Mexico, and, finally, to and within the United States on a quest to find and reunite with his mother Lourdes. According to the book, Lourdes left Honduras—and her 5-year-old son Enrique and 7-year-old daughter Belky—to escape the cycle of poverty in which she felt

mired and to gain resources in the United States to enable her children to have a more fulfilling life. Although she thought that she would return to her country and family within a year or two, Lourdes and Enrique remained separated until eleven years later when Enrique decided to risk a harrowing journey to find her.

Nazario herself traced Enrique's footsteps and braved the journey twice to research the book. Much of the travel took place on the tops of trains, a dangerous mode of travel that leaves many migrants severely injured or dead.

During Nazario's visit to Fullerton College, she met with a group of about

forty students and answered their questions about immigration, journalistic ethics, and the current circumstances of Enrique. In the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup>, Nazario spoke engagingly to approximately 200 students, faculty, staff, administrators, and community members. Not only did she discuss *Enrique's Journey*, but she also spoke about the current anti-immigrant atmosphere in the U.S. and how that atmosphere must change. She reiterated a theme from her book—that a bigger, longer, taller wall is not the solution to the multi-faceted issues connected to immigration.

**Student Demographics** Office of Institutional Research, Fullerton College

Race / Ethnicity	Fall 2010
African American	3.5%
American Indian	0.5%
Asian	13.1%
Filipino	2.8%
Hispanic	42.5%
Multi-Ethnicity	1.9%
Pacific Islander	0.4%
White	30.9%
Unknown	4.3%

Educational Status	Fall 2010
High School Grad	88.3%
Non High School Grad or Adult/High School Concurrently Enrolled	2.5%
AA Degree	3.1%
BA Degree or Higher	6.0%
Unknown	0.2%

Citizenship	Fall 2010
U.S. Citizen	89.4%
Permanent Resident	5.6%
Other/Unknown	5%

Gender	Fall 2010
Female	50.4%
Male	48.1%
Not Stated	1.5%

