Fullerton College

Diversity Committee

2013-2014 In Review

In 2013-2014, the Fullerton College campus was focused on the Centennial Celebration. As the attention of the campus centered on celebrating Fullerton College’s 100 years of service to our students and community, the Diversity Committee was focused on the future direction of the committee.

Having worked the entire 2012-2013 on creating a new Diversity Action Plan, the committee began the 2013-2014 year with the presentation of the Plan to the President’s Advisory Council (PAC) for their review. What ensued was a discussion over the future of the committee as the administration began exploring the idea of merging the Student Equity Committee and the Diversity Committee. Thus, during the fall, the committee met only once in October and remained on hiatus until a decision could be reached by PAC. Ultimately, the administration decided that it would be best to keep the committees separate. Thus, the Diversity Committee reconvened in February 2014.

Although the 2013-2014 year for the committee began with uncertainty, the year ended with the approval of its Diversity Action Plan. This will provide the direction needed for committee members in the 2014-2015 academic year.

We want to thank all those who have helped in the creation of this plan which you will find inside this newsletter.

2013-2014 Diversity Committee Members

The 2013-2014 Diversity Committee members were:

**2013-2015 Chair**—Cecilia Ariaza, Director, Cadena/Transfer Center.

**Associated Students:**
- A.S.—Wayne Bergman
- I.C.C.—Joshua Kleinbergs

**Classified**
- Deborah Perkins
- Lourdes Oropeza

**Faculty**
- Kimberly Orlijan
- Carl Stanaway

**Managers**
- Cecilia Ariaza
- David Grossman/Pilar Ellis

**Special Advocacy Groups:**
- Asian & Pacific Islander Faculty & Staff Association: Larry Hashima
- Black Faculty & Staff Association: André Strong
- Disability Support & Veteran Services: Paul McKinley
- Gay & Lesbian Association of District Employees: Vincent White
- Latino Faculty & Staff Association: Bob Miranda

**Resource Members:**
- District Director of Equity & Diversity (ex officio): Kenneth Robinson
- Chair, Student Equity Committee: Vacant
- Staff Development: Wendy Bailey

2013-2014 Meeting Dates

The Diversity Committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month in the fall and spring semesters only.

- **September** (cancelled)
- October 2, 2013
- **November** (cancelled)
- **December** (cancelled)
- February 5, 2014
- March 5, 2014
- April 2, 2014
- May 5, 2014
Mission Statement

The mission of the Campus Diversity Committee is to promote harmony, equality and unity by supporting policies, programs, and practices that provide a greater understanding of diversity at Fullerton College.

The committee promotes and advocates for a positive, supportive and safe campus climate for students, faculty, staff, and administration and for those in the community.

The committee is charged with building an inclusive and respectful campus working alongside community members and campus leaders to develop and evaluate the Diversity Action Plan.

The committee is responsible for making recommendations to the President’s Advisory Council (PAC) on diversity issues that affect the student experience of Fullerton College.

2013-2014 Cultural & Diversity Calendar

September 2013:
- Bienvenidos! - Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month (10th Annual)
- A.S. Constitution Day!
- 5th Latino Students Forum 1913 Day at Fullerton College! (FC Centennial)

October 2013:
- 5th Sidewalk Art Festival!
- 3rd Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender (LGBT) Students Forum
- Tour: Museum of Latin American Art
- Art Gallery: La Xilografía: Mexican Woodcut Prints
- Student Open Mic! (Creative Writing Committee)
- Theater: “Ragtime”
- A.S. Annual Halloween Costume Contest!
- Dia De Los Muertos - Day of the Dead (Ethnic Studies)

November 2013:
- VRC Higher Ground/ Wall of Remembrance
- FC Dream Immigration Circles
- 1st Veteran Students Forum Educational Screening of Restrepo
- VRC Veterans Day Celebration & BBQ
- Visiting Writer (Creative Wrtg)
- Brickwall (Health Services)

December 2013:
- World AIDS Day & Quilt Display (Health Services)
- Kwanzaa Celebration!
- (Ethnic Studies Dept.)

February 2014:
- FC Art Gallery: Art Legends
- AB540 Financial Aid Fridays (CA. Dream Act Application)
- Artist in Residence: Cathy Weisman-Topal
- Educational Screening of Eyes On the Prize
- 5th Black Students Forum Beat Café - Open Mic Night!
- (Cadena Cultural Center)
- Educational Screenings of Freedom Riders
- TOUR: California African American Museum

March 2014:
- SCCBA 2014 Career Institute
- French Film Festival (Humanities Division)
- 4th Women’s Forum
- High School Theater Festival
- FC Jazz Festival
- Artist in Residence - Ben Jackel
- 3rd Asian & Pacific Islander Forum

March 2014 (cont.):
- Student Open Mic
- (Creative Writing Comm.)
- Distinguished Lecture Series: Dr. Joy DeGruy

April 2014:
- Creating Safe Classrooms for LGBT Students
- One-Book, One-College
- (Humanities Division)
- TOUR: Museum of Tolerance
- Visiting Poet (Humanities Division)
- Domestic Violence 101: Prevention Through Education
- Clothesline Project
- Walk in Her Shoes

May 2014:
- 3rd Worldfest! Celebrating People, Culture, & The Earth
- KinderCaminata! - 19th Annual (Social Sciences Division)
- Cinco de Mayo!
- Asian/Pacific Islander American Filmmakers’ Forum
- Immigrant Students Forum

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The Campus Cultural & Diversity events calendar is accessible from fullcoll.edu
Diversity Action Plan

**Goal 1:** Promote and protect the interests and concerns of minority and underrepresented persons and all those designated as a protected class by the California Education Code.

**Objective 1:** Support adoption of the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) which promotes fully inclusive education.

**Objective 2:** Inform the campus of resources, laws, etc. that affect minority and underrepresented persons and all those designated as a protected class by the California Education Code.

**Objective 3:** Report to PAC information about forums, events, and dialogues related to promoting and protecting the interests and concerns of minority and underrepresented persons and those designated as a protected class by the California Education Code.

**Objective 4:** Report to PAC on any legal or policy changes that may negatively impact underrepresented or at-risk students.

**Goal 2:** Actively promote and advocate for a positive, supportive, and safe campus climate for students, faculty, staff, administration, and community members.

**Objective 1:** Make appropriate recommendations to PAC about status of and results from campus climate surveys.

**Objective 2:** Report and make recommendations on issues or incidents that have an adverse effect upon an inclusive and respectful campus.

**Goal 3:** Build an inclusive and respectful campus working in a collaborative effort with community members and campus leaders

**Objective 1:** Build bridges among the multiple diversity committees within the district.

**Objective 2:** Monitor and report on campus, cultural, and diversity-related events.

**Objective 3:** Inform PAC and campus committees of the Diversity Committee’s actions.

“It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength.”

Maya Angelou
In the 2009-2010 academic year, the Cadena Cultural Center began a process of working with students to create a variety of forums at which students would be able to discuss their experiences at Fullerton College. These forums are completely run by students with the assistance of the Cadena Cultural Center staff. The first forums created were those for our Latino Students and our African American Students, followed by our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender students, and finally our Veteran students.

Over the years, students have provided the campus with first-hand information about the obstacles they face and what follows is a compilation of the most discussed topics:

**5th Annual Black Students Forum**

2. Juggling family obligations with school.
3. Facing prejudice and discrimination on the campus and in the classrooms.
4. Lack of a visible presence and unity among African-American community on campus
5. Difficulty negotiating/accessing Financial Aid services.

**5th Annual Latino Students Forum**

1. Lack of financial resources
2. Pressures of Family obligations/demands
3. Identity & facing prejudice
4. Being a first-generation college student
5. Being an undocumented student

**1st Immigrant Students Forum**

1. Need for Financial Aid Office to provide California Dream Act application workshops and ensure that staff are knowledgeable about AB540.
2. Need for more faculty who are knowledgeable about and supportive of undocumented students.
3. Need for more places on campus that are welcoming to undocumented students.

**1st Veteran Students Forum**

1. The need for more counseling and tutoring services in the Veterans Resource Center (VRC)
2. Difficulty negotiating/accessing Financial Aid services.
3. Transitioning from military to civilian life.
4. Lack of awareness among faculty, staff, and students of the experiences of combat Veterans.

**3rd Annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Students Forum**

1. Personal Safety on the campus and in the classrooms—physical & verbal discrimination and harassment
2. Prejudice (homophobia & heterosexism) on the campus and in the classrooms
3. Coming Out to Family—fear of being kicked out of the home
4. Lack of unisex restrooms on campus