Inclusive Excellence, Making Excellence Inclusive: Celebrating Diversity? What do you mean?  By: Chip Beal

I get asked this on a regular basis. My answer has varied, but the theme has always remained the same. Making Excellence Inclusive starts with each one of us, where we are: “I can’t change anyone else, but I can change ME!” It is universally accepted that we all want to make UW-Superior an institution of excellence. But, it’s the inclusive part that sometimes gets left out or forgotten about. I believe it is the goal of “Making Excellence Inclusive” to turn inclusivity, open-mindedness and cultural competency into core values at every level of university life, and to make each of us responsible for its outcome and delivery. I heard it best at a UW-System Inclusive Excellence conference, “To have excellence, you must be inclusive!” And to be inclusive, we must strive to make every classroom, office, hallway, and campus residence hall a place where people feel welcome, valued and respected regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, ability, age, or place of origin. This is all of our responsibility!!!

If you want more information about Making Excellence Inclusive go to: http://www.uwsuper.edu/inclusive/index.cfm?redir=1

On Nov. 22 the mentors and mentees of the Leadership & Mentorship Program had their monthly meeting where they participated in a team building activity and had a representative from Habitat for Humanity, Susan Jonas, come in and present what their non-profit organization can offer and how they can help students build their resumes with volunteer opportunities. Susan had stated that, “Some of them had no idea what Habitat for Humanity was so I’m really glad that I was invited to present what it’s all about and give them information about volunteering.” Being able to give these students a chance to learn about a variety of resources on and off campus is one of our many goals and we in the office are glad to know that our students are getting a positive experience from the Leadership & Mentorship Program.

Ivy Vainio set up an Admission’s Information Tabling at the 2nd Annual Social Round Dance Event sponsored by the Anishinaabe Culture Club at Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College on November 6, 2013. UW-Superior student Nick Hanson also participated in the hand drum songs and also danced in the Men’s Side Step competition.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Jefferson Le
Hometown: Wausau, WI
Year: Junior
Major/Minor: Biology/Broad Field Sciences
What is one "Fun Fact" about you?: I'm Vietnamese!

Debbie (Burmeister) Cheslock
Hometown: Duluth, MN
Year: Senior
Major/Minor: Sociology, Women & Gender Studies
One "Fun Fact" about you?: Even though most days I'd rather sleep in, my favorite part of the day is waking up with my family and having coffee with my wife.

NEW & UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

- American Indians in the Military Presentation

RECRUITMENT

Ten American Indian High School students "shadowed" UW-Superior students on November 20th in a recruitment program called American Indian College Student For A Day Program coordinated through the Office of Multicultural Affairs. It's a great program that allows high school students to learn about the steps of becoming a college student while actually experiencing college life for one day. The UW-Superior students who were mentors and role models showed true leadership and we could see that they really care for our community youth. Thank you to all the students who mentored!

~ OMA staff member Gabriela Theis met with current student Flo Powless and high school sophomore Darren Hawpetoss regarding the Leadership and Mentorship program during American Indian College Student For A Day program.~

Congratulations to the Students who participated on the 2013 Wisconsin Louis Strokes Alliance for Minority Participation (WiscAMP) Annual Meeting!

The University of Wisconsin-Superior launched the Advancing Minorities in Science (AMIS) project to serve students underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEMS fields) in the summer of 2013. Four students participated and presented their research projects at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on November 1, 2013.

Jordan Mallery’s research project was focused on Microwave Assisted Extraction American Hazelnut, Chi-Yeon Evans’ project was on the Analysis of plastic debris, Brian Lester’s project was on a Survey of Invasive Crayfish in Lake Superior St. Louis Estuary, and Kara Tudor’s project was on the Distribution Analysis of the Invasive Rusty Crayfish in Lake Superior St. Louis Estuary.

Great presentations!
In May 1916, the first American Indian Day in a state was declared by the governor of New York. In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 “National American Indian Heritage Month”. Similar declarations under variants on the name have been issued each year since 1994, such as “Native American Heritage Month” and “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month”.

Information courtesy of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior

“It’s time to celebrate the fact that we’re here and that we remember as much as we do of our past. It’s time to stop wondering if we’re Indian enough and begin to own ALL of what we are”. ~Ryan J. Barber of the Coast Salish Tribe.
Wow! The end of the semester is here. This semester has whipped by like a feather in a windstorm. It’s hard to believe that Thanksgiving has come and gone and winter break and all of its holidays will be here before we know it! Thinking about Thanksgiving…. There are a lot of different beliefs about what Thanksgiving is about: its origins, its meaning, its evolution... Here is my scoop. I know that what we have always been taught about the first Thanksgiving with the Native Americans and the first colonists is only partially true; especially if you think about how those same Native Americans were treated in the first years after that. But I like to think about it in an intercultural way and not about Pilgrims and American Indians. I believe we all, regardless of culture, have things to be thankful for. And, having the opportunity to sit around a table with my wife, children, their partners, and my grandchildren and each of us sharing what we are thankful for is a good thing. So whatever your culture is, share the things you are thankful for. And, Happy Thanksgiving from all of us in the Office of Multicultural Affairs!

~Chip Beal