Making College Accessible

On April 11, 2014, UW-Superior Welcomed middle school students and parents for the program *Making College Accessible*!

The *Making College Accessible* event was a chance for middle school parents and students to learn about financial aid, scholarships, college admission requirements and the overall process through a UW -Superior Parent Panel’s perspective. Middle school students had the opportunity to spend time with college students and have fun while experiencing life in college! Our UW-Superior Student and Parent Panelists answered questions about their personal college experiences. Middle school students were exposed to activities at the Marcovich Wellness Center, questions and answers through a UW - Superior Student Panel, and Science Night Activities. Our next phase of this initiative will be to invite those students who participated to be part of a pre-college program, the A+ summer pre-college program, for seven days from August 4 to August 12, 2014.

Superior Middle School’s principal, Rick Flaherty, speaks at UW-Superior’s *Making College Accessible* Program in Old Main’s Multicultural Center.

Diversity Dialogue

Dr. Terencio Daunte McGlasson presented on Wednesday, April 30, in the Multicultural Center with the topic, *Caught Between a Rock & A Holy Place*.

Retention

The Leadership and Mentorship Program had their annual Appreciation/End-of-the-Year Ceremony on Thursday, May 8 at the Incline Station Bowling Alley for fun, pizza, and a conclusion of the year.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Alex Gokee
Hometown: Red Cliff, WI
Year: Senior
Major/Minor: First Nations Health (Individually Designed)
What is one "Fun Fact" about you: If I got paid, I would stay in school forever.

Jordan Mutterer
Hometown: Buffalo, MN
Year: Freshman
Major/Minor: Social Work
One "Fun Fact" about you: I love climbing trees. If there is a tree with a low branch that I can reach I will go as high as I can climb.

NEW & UPCOMING EVENTS

- A+ Summer Pre-College Program: Aug. 4-12

DIVERSITY DIALOGUE

Caught Between a Rock & A Holy Place

Dr. Terencio Daunte McGlasson came to UW-Superior on Wednesday April 30 and presented in the Multicultural Center about faith development. Dr. McGlasson, Assistant Professor of Counseling, facilitated open conversations about faith development on many public university campuses, including our own. Dr. McGlasson is a former minister with a master's degree in theology. He has extensive experience researching and presenting on these issues and was happy to have this conversation on our campus. Those who came to the presentation were able to participate in an open conversation about faith development where all faiths and beliefs were welcomed.

RETENTION

The Leadership and Mentorship Program was hosted by the Incline Station Bowling Center and was sponsored by UW-Superior's Black Student Union and the Office of Multicultural Affairs for their annual "End-of-the-Year" celebration to commemorate the mentors and mentees who participated in the program for the academic year of 2013-2014. During this Appreciation Ceremony the Program Coordinator Gabriela Theis and Student Lead Jasmine Ayers handed out certificates of appreciation and gave a brief speech to thank everyone for being a part of the program. The celebration included bowling, pizza and pop, and good 'ole fashioned fun!

Flo Powless quote
Review of “Frenemies”

By Codi Gleesing and Simona Simkins

“Frenemies” was a production that raised awareness of the diversity issues affecting students at the University of Wisconsin – Superior. It was a touching production that brought people to tears, giving them an emotional look at the true stories of diversity issues happening on our campus. After the performance, audience members were able to ask questions of the actors as they stayed in character during an interactive facilitated discussion. Questions asked during the facilitation allowed the audience to delve more deeply into the stories presented through the performance, and gave the characters a chance to open up on such topics as the reasons that they did or did not stand up for their peer(s), or why they felt the need to bully others. The interactive facilitation also gave audience members a chance to practice the ways that they would handle real-life incidents of bullying and discrimination.

The audience response to play was overwhelmingly positive. Several noted that the performance raised their awareness of diversity issues on campus and increased their sensitivity to negative cultural stereotypes and bullying. Participating student actors remarked that “Frenemies” was a positive experience for them that opened their eyes to the need for more awareness-raising diversity programming at the university.

This performance was just one step in bringing awareness to the campus community on the real-life issues of diversity facing our students. Though things will not change overnight, “Frenemies” was a step in the right direction for reaching out and helping people who are dealing with negative diversity experiences and do not know what to do or where to turn. Just know that you are never alone - people are here to help. Simona Simkins, founder and director of Superior Interaction, expressed, “If you are being bullied, get help from a trusted person of authority. Talk to someone about what is happening. Reach out. For someone who is a bully, the same goes: get help on developing empathy for others around you, and get help in dealing with the real issues you are facing.” The Office of Multicultural Affairs is an inclusive and welcoming to turn; please feel free contact them if you need help.

If you are interested in participating in Superior Interaction next fall, please contact Simona Simkins at ssimkin1@uwsuper.edu.
The Office of Multicultural Affairs is very proud of all 48 multicultural graduates. We wish you all the best in your future. Student success is our passion and business. Graduation is our goal for every student who passes through our doors.

Chip Beal

There were honor songs celebrating Asian culture, African/African American culture, Hispanic/Latino culture, and American Indian culture. Chancellor Renee Walker gave the opening welcome. There were a total of 48 multicultural graduates who either graduated in May, December, or this upcoming August. There were 23 American Indian graduates, 11 African American graduates, 8 Hispanic/Latino graduates, and 6 Asian/Asian American graduates.
Yer Vang gave the student address at the ceremony. Yer graduated with a double major in Legal Studies and Political Science. Yer has been very active as a student at UW-Superior as a member of the Mock Trial Team, Vice President of Student Senates, and the Model United Nations team. Yer has been active in the Office of Multicultural Affairs by participating in events and programs since long before she became a student.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs honored community member Leslie Gibbs with The 2013-14 Community Diversity Award. This is an annual award that is given to someone in the community that has kept close ties to the University and to our multicultural programs, as well as being engaged positively within the surrounding communities. Leslie Gibbs graduated from the UW-Superior in 2002 with a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling. He has been a mental health therapist for the Red Lake and Fond du Lac Reservations and is currently employed at the Human Development Center in Superior. He was instrumental with the healing that occurred after the Red Lake School shootings. He has taught within the University’s First Nations Studies program, emceed the Circle of Native Nations powwow, participated on education focused panels for Multicultural Affairs pre-college programs, and so much more. Information will be coming out in the Fall Semester regarding nominations for The 2014-15 Community Diversity Award. If you should have questions please contact Ivy Vainio at 715-394-8415 or yvainio@uwsuper.edu.
Congratulations to the 2014 Spring Commencement Graduates

Pictures by Ivy Vainio
Congratulations to the 2014 Spring Commencement Graduates
Continue…

A Message from the Office of Multicultural Affairs

It has been a pleasure working with all of the students, and being a part of their educational experience and growth. This year we were able to assist middle school, high school, and college students through our programming including Making College Accessible, College Student For A Day, Leadership and Mentorship Program, Advancing Minorities in Science, Diversity Leadership Retreat, Diversity Dialogues, American Multicultural Student Leadership Conference, Student Spotlights, and we closed our year out with our annual graduates reception.

A special thanks goes out to everyone who has been engaged in our office programming and for supporting our mission, including members of our campus and surrounding community. A major shout out to our Multicultural Affairs student employees – Kang Her, Simona Simkins, Jasmine Ayers, Cece Caribou and Binta Sidibe - who have gone above and beyond to provide assistance with our programming.

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