The Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity & Community Engagement is committed to an open and inclusive environment for faculty, staff, and students to succeed.

Every unit in the Division has seen significant growth while increasing campus awareness of inclusive excellence, which advances the academic mission of the university. For the fourth consecutive year, Texas Tech University received the 2015 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award, which recognizes colleges and universities that exhibit outstanding efforts and success in the areas of inclusion and diversity.

The Division has 11 different units that are dedicated to promoting the academic value of diversity and the continued personal and professional development of the university community.

We hope you enjoy reading about the everyday successes of our Division, our students, and our staff.

Dr. Juan S. Muñoz  
Senior Vice President

Dr. Paul A. Frazier  
Associate Vice President

Texas Tech University’s Upward Bound and Pioneers in Education: Generations Achieving Scholarship & Unprecedented Success (PEGASUS) programs were selected as Bright Spots in Hispanic Education by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics for its inaugural online catalog, featuring 230 programs nationally.

The Initiative was originally established by President George H.W. Bush in 1990 to address the educational disparities faced by the Hispanic community. Since then, the call to address these issues within the Hispanic community has been recognized by Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush and more recently by President Barack Obama through the renewal of the Initiative.

The Initiative seeks to leverage Bright Spots such as the TTU PEGASUS and Upward Bound programs to encourage collaboration between stakeholders focused on similar issues in sharing data-driven approaches, promising practices, peer advice, and effective partnerships, ultimately resulting in increased support for the educational attainment of the Hispanic community, from cradle-to-career. Both PEGASUS and Upward Bound were recognized for their investment in key education priorities for Hispanics.
This year, PEGASUS welcomed its trailblazers, students entering Texas Tech University for the 2015-2016 academic year who are the first, or among the first in their families to attend a university. PEGASUS held its annual Welcome Event this Fall with over 500 First Generation College (FGC) students in attendance. Students who participated in the Welcome Event had the opportunity to engage in networking with peer mentors, as well as connecting with other FGC students.

Presently, PEGASUS serves a record-breaking 834 FGC students by providing valuable opportunities for both personal and professional growth that give them the determination to achieve success.

Celebrate Diversity Awards Banquet

The Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity & Community Engagement at Texas Tech University hosted its annual Celebrate Diversity Awards Banquet on Monday, October 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center. The United States Poet Laureate, Juan Felipe Herrera served as the keynote speaker. Mr. Herrera is the first Mexican American to serve as the nation’s poet laureate. The event’s Title Sponsor was the Texas Tech College of Arts & Sciences.

During the banquet, Mr. & Mrs. Marciano Morales, owners of Caprock Home Health Services, Inc., were recognized as the recipients of the Senator Robert L. Duncan Community Champion Award for their dedication to further education and their service to the Lubbock community. Kent Meredith, Assistant Vice President of Auxiliary Services and Director of the United Supermarkets Arena, and Chris Snead, Associate Vice President of the Texas Tech Alumni Association, were also recognized as recipients of the 2015 Inclusive Excellence Award for their contributions to diversity at the university.

More than 300 individuals attended the event. Proceeds from the event benefit Texas Tech student scholarships.
Upward Bound Programs collaborated with the TTUHSC Medical School to provide participants the opportunity to participate in an exclusive and rigorous program known as the Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP). The JAMP state-wide, long-term pre-medical academy is designed for competitive students with aspirations of one day becoming a physician.

Specifically, the JAMP program was initiated by Senate Bill 940 of the 77th Texas Legislature to provide services such as support to highly qualified and economically disadvantaged students pursuing a medical education.

Upward Bound received a $1.1 million five-year Student Support Services Grant to serve first-generation, low-economic students at the secondary level.

Mentor Tech
The annual Mentor Tech Orientation was held on Wednesday, August 19th. During the event, mentors met their new protégés, also known as student mentees, for the first time.

In addition to match activities, attendees had opportunities to take photos with Raider Red and learn about campus resources through the Student Services Fair. More than 400 people attended the event.

University Interscholastic League (UIL)
UIL summer camps for Theatre & Technical Theatre, Math & Science, and Journalism, grew an astounding 85 percent. During this same time period, UIL introduced a new summer camp, Speech & Debate, that will continue to be offered in the future.

Office of Community Engagement (OCE)
OCE is focused on providing resources and services to the K-20 community in Lubbock and the surrounding area. One of the critical events organized by OCE is the annual Back-to-School Fiesta. The 2015 Back to School Fiesta took place on Saturday, August 8, 2015 at the Student Union Building. The event promotes higher education and seeks to build a college-going culture across Lubbock and surrounding areas.

This year, the Fiesta welcomed over 3,200 students, families, community members, and volunteers. As in years past, the event featured an indoor and outdoor fair, which consisted of over 40 partners from local educational, health, community service, and family resource organizations from the local and surrounding areas.

OCE offers Texas Tech University students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to be involved in outreach and engagement efforts, as well as creative research and scholarship.

The Institute for the Development & Enrichment of Advanced Learners (IDEAL)
IDEAL provides curriculum-based programming designed to challenge and engage K-12 students in science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

IDEAL is proud to celebrate 31 years of providing area K-12 youth with academic enrichment programs. This summer, IDEAL coordinated academic summer camps for students from all over Texas, southeastern New Mexico, and surrounding states. In addition, it expanded IDEAL’s global outreach by hosting students from Brazil.

Summer Highlights:
• 1,100 students in summer residential academic camps
• Received $120,500 grant from the J. E Maddox Foundation
• Received $29,520 grant from the Halliburton Foundation to provide young girls the opportunity to attend summer camps
Military & Veterans Program (MVP)

MVP held its first TechVet Boot Camp to kick off Fall 2015 for incoming students. The camp provides a networking opportunity for incoming student veterans to meet other veterans before the beginning of the Fall semester.

MVP Golf Tournament

On May 29th, MVP hosted the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament of Heroes to raise funds for scholarships that benefit veterans and their family members attending Texas Tech University. The tournament raised $10,755.

Women’s Studies

In the Fall of 2015, the Women’s Studies program hosted The Gender and Gender Identity Colloquium. This event is a forum where speakers, presenters, panelists, and general audience members engaged in vigorous exchanges centering on gender and gender identity in terms of empowerment and commitment to social justice.

The President’s Gender Equity Council, along with Women’s Studies and University Writing Center, instituted the Women Faculty Writing Group, in which women from across campus were selected as the inaugural fellows. Participants that were selected learned new strategies for writing, engaged in networking and resource sharing, and more than 10 manuscripts, book chapters, conference proceedings, and reviews were submitted.

Chess

The nationally-ranked TTU Chess Program has garnered two national championships and dozens of other national, state, and regional honors. With the strongest team in years, the program is hopeful of qualifying for the Final Four of College Chess for the third year in a row. In addition, throughout the summer, chess camps took place with more than 60 attendees, ages 7-18.

“Diversity really means becoming complete as human beings - all of us. We learn from each other. If you’re missing on that stage, we learn less. We all need to be on that stage.”

Juan Felipe Herrera