The Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity & Community Engagement is dedicated to academic success, partnerships, and student engagement.

The Division has been instrumental in providing Texas Tech students with opportunities that encouraged exploration of diverse subjects and outreach and engagement activities across campus and the region. Each unit at the Division has seen substantial growth and an increased awareness of their efforts, including earning distinctions for Texas Tech University as a military-friendly institution, a top gainer in Hispanic and Black student graduation rates, and as a winner of the 2014 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity award. Additionally, these units have provided numerous discussions and training sessions for students, faculty, staff, and to make Texas Tech University a more inclusive campus.

The Office of Community Engagement, Upward Bound, the Institute for the Development and Enrichment of Advanced Learners (IDEAL), and University Interscholastic League continue to expand their involvement with K-12 communities regionally and across the state. These programs engaged over 20,000 K-12 students and their families, as well as faculty and staff, during the year and continue to create numerous opportunities for Texas Tech University students to volunteer and give back to the broader community. Additionally, these programs attracted significant funding and recognition to the university through awards such as the federal TRiO Upward Bound grant, the Texas Tech Summer Institute Grant, the Title I Family, and the Raider Life College Readiness Program.

We look forward to the coming months as we develop enhanced partnerships and collaborations to create a stronger institutional culture of diversity, equity, and community engagement.

Best Regards,

Dr. Paul A. Frazier
Assistant Vice President
Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity & Community Engagement
What's Happening Around the Division

Spring 2015

30 Years of Success
Fall 2014 marked 30 years of IDEAL’s “Super Saturdays” academic enrichment classes. These classes take place on TTU’s campus and allow students to explore a range of topics, from forensics and toxicology to arts and performance.

Residential summer camp “Science: It’s a Girl Thing” proudly receives $29,520 from the Halliburton Foundation.

Reaching New Heights
This year, the Division has seen record-setting numbers for several units. Mentor Tech had the largest enrollment in program history; 559 students enrolled as protégés and 266 faculty, staff and graduate students enrolled as mentors.

PEGASUS, TTU’s program for First-Generation College (FGC) students also experienced record enrollment with 668 members, while offering 61 workshops and activities designed to support the academic and student life successes of first-year, first-generation college students.

Register Now
In April, The Women’s Studies Program will host the 31st Annual Conference on the Advancement of Women. Over the years, the theme of the conference has merged with present-day discourse of examining the cultural and social construction of gender, exploring the history, experiences and contributions of women to society, and studying the influences of gender on the lives of women and men. Early registration will remain open until April 3, with late registration extending to the start of the conference on April 17. For more information please visit www.depts.ttu.edu/wstudies.

Campus Collaboration
The Office of Academic Enrichment strives to promote a heightened sense of campus community that is built on the joint pursuit of a common cause: increasing student success. The office is seeking more opportunities to provide support to students through AVID learning courses and supplemental training across campus. They are currently working alongside the College of Engineering with a goal to designate future engineering courses as AVID Learning courses with WICOR (Writing Inquiry Collaboration Organization Reading) techniques incorporated in the course by the instructor.
Chess Program Plans for New York

The Texas Tech chess team is preparing to compete in the Final Four of Chess at the 2015 Collegiate Chess Championship at the New York Athletic Club after a successful competition during winter break. This is the second year in a row that the team has advanced to the Final Four, and they are hopeful they can return to campus with a championship.

Open Teaching Concept

The Open Teaching Concept (OTC) is a series of workshops and a half-day symposium hosted by the Cross-Cultural Academic Advancement Center (CCAAC) that takes place each fall. The aim of OTC is to explore the issues of diversity and social justice, access and disparities, policy and poverty over a variety of disciplines, methods, theories, and paradigms. By facilitating these discussions, OTC allows students, faculty, and staff to openly explore the larger questions of social responsibility and global citizenship. The guest speaker was Franco Prisi PhD, visiting international scholar and Presidential Candidate for Chile. Attendance for the most recent OTC reached over 1,100 members representing all 13 colleges and schools at Texas Tech University.

Selected to Host 14th annual Texas NAME Conference

The National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) is a non-profit organization that advances and advocates for equity and social justice through multicultural education. The Region 6 Texas chapter will host its annual conference April 23-25 at the TTU Student Union Building. This year’s theme is “Multicultural Education as Social Advocacy: Communities, Conversations, and Collaborations”. Stakeholders will share their work on closing the academic achievement gap for marginalized students and shared strategies to empower students, families, and communities to become effective advocates for education and ultimately the betterment of society. For more information, visit www.depts.ttu.edu/diversity/txname.

Institute for Inclusive Excellence Welcomes New Members

The Institute for Inclusive Excellence (IIE) brings faculty together from diverse disciplines and pedagogy to explore inclusive excellence in higher education. The 2015 cohort is proud to welcome 15 new members to participate in four modules led by nationally recognized inclusive excellence leaders and scholars. To date, Dr. Damon A. Williams and Dr. Mitch Chang have led individual workshops with IIE faculty. Dr. Damon A. Williams is author of Strategic Diversity Leadership: Activating Change and Transformation In Higher Education and co-author of Matter of Excellence: Strategic Diversity Leadership and Accountability in Higher Education. Dr. Mitch Chang has written over ninety publications, some of which were cited in a U.S. Supreme Court ruling. The 2015 IIE faculty will be recognized at the annual President’s Excellence Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 30.
Embracing Diversity Among Graduate Students

For the Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC), promoting diversity means creating opportunities for graduate students to connect, learn from each other, and forge friendships that will last a lifetime. This is achieved by hosting more than 100 annual activities that allow social connectedness and support networks among all generations, all cultures, and all genders of graduate Red Raiders. The Council also works hard to engage both on-site and distance graduate students, including students at a Native American Reservation in South Dakota and some as far as Ukraine. The Graduate Student Supportive Discussion Group helps students from the U.S. and abroad to overcome everyday challenges of being a graduate student.

Speakers Engage Students

As a part of The 2015 African American History Month Lecture Series, Angela Davis and Tavis Smiley visited the TTU campus. Angela Davis is the author of nine books and has lectured throughout the United States as well as in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, and South America. In recent years, a persistent theme of her work has been the range of social problems associated with incarceration and the generalized criminalization of those communities that are most affected by poverty and racial discrimination. From his celebrated conversations with world figures to his work to inspire the next generation of leaders, Tavis Smiley — broadcaster, author, publisher, advocate, and philanthropist — has emerged as an outstanding voice for change. Smiley is currently the host of the late-night television talk show Tavis Smiley on PBS, as well as The Tavis Smiley Show from Public Radio International (PRI), and the daily online radio program, Tavis Talks, on the Tavis Smiley Network (TSN) on BlogTalkRadio.

Unprecedented Increase in International Students

The Fall 2014 enrollment of non-resident aliens at Texas Tech University is recorded at 2,804 -- an increase of 513, or 22% over Fall 2013. This represents approximately an equal percentage increase in both undergraduate and graduate international students. The greatest number of international students are from India and China. The Office of International Affairs (OIA) has taken a proactive approach to retentive services by establishing a dedicated unit to focus on retention issues and to provide a unique, internationalized slate of student life programming and services for international students. One of the most prized services offered is a “Global Village” program to support the integration of international students into the local community. As a part of this initiative, more than 100 international students recently found new families, so to speak, when a Lubbock community organization created a cultural friendship program that coupled local families with international students.

Viva Aztlan Festival

The Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity & Community Engagement is sponsoring the 21st annual Viva Aztlan Festival held at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center the weekend of March 20. The festival celebrates the beauty of Mexican and Mestizo culture with Folklorico and Mariachi workshops as well as a Folklorico competition. Enjoy musical performances by the two-time Grammy nominated group Mariachi Los Arrieros del Valle.
In support of the mission of the Division of Diversity, the Office of Community Engagement (OCE), the Institute for the Development and Enrichment of Advanced Learners (IDEAL), and the Office of Academic Enrichment (OAE) provide interactive and educational activities encouraging academic success and personal growth. This summer, OCE, IDEAL, and OAE will host over 1,200 students from across the globe, including students from Brazil and China, in numerous summer camps and activities. The summer will conclude with the 16th annual Back to School Fiesta, which provides more than 4,000 students and community members with information on higher education, health and wellness, and other resources. All three units are committed to promoting partnerships and opportunities that serve the community, promote learning, and encourage conversations about the value and benefit of higher education.

A unit within the Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement, PEGASUS provides support for students through efforts designed to strengthen academic preparation and integration of First-Generation College (FGC) students into the university. With the growth of our program, we have implemented two new components to better assist the needs of FGC students: Second-Year Success and Conversations with the Next Generation. ‘Second-Year Success’ is dedicated to assisting FGC students through the transition from first to second year by supporting academic success, promoting major and career exploration, and encouraging campus and community relationships through programming and event collaboration. ‘Conversations with the Next Generation’ is a series of discussions among FGC students, faculty, and staff where stories were shared with regard to personal experiences and challenges that FGC students face while becoming acclimated to college life.

Heather H. Martinez, Ph.D. Senior Director, Office of Academic Enrichment, Office of Community Engagement & Institute for the Development of Advanced Learners

Ashley Gonzales, Director, PEGASUS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MARCH
14 Super Saturdays | IDEAL
18 AVID Night - Dallas Mavericks
   Office of Academic Enrichment
25 “Dear White People” Screening | CCAAC
28-29 Final Four of College Chess | Chess Program

APRIL
4-5 Final Four of College Chess | Chess Program
10 New Mentor Training | PEGASUS
16-18 31st Annual Conference on the Advancement of Women
   Women’s Studies
24 13th Annual Celebration Banquet | Mentor Tech
25 4A & 5A Academic Regional Meets | University
   Interscholastic League
27 Campus Visit: 6th, 7th and 8th Grade | Office of Community Engagement

MAY
1 Prospective Mentor Recruitment Luncheon | Mentor Tech
2 4A & 5A Track and Field Regional Meet:
   FINALS | University Interscholastic League
14 Graduation Stole Ceremony | Military & Veterans Programs
16 Non-Bridge Summer Orientation | Upward Bound
29 Tournament for Heroes Scholarship Golf Tournament
   Military & Veterans Programs
31 Bridge Summer Orientation | Upward Bound

For more details and a complete list of events, visit: www.depts.ttu.edu/diversity/events.php

We inhabit a universe that is characterized by diversity.
Desmond Tutu