

Multicultural Center Annual Report 2017-2018



ARKANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

JUNE 21

Multicultural Center

Authored by: Dr. Evette Allen

Executive Summary

Multicultural Program Highlights

- Collaborated with over 20 organizations and departments for 2017-2018 programming.
- Hosted/Co-hosted over 50 programs during the 2017-2018 academic year.
- Had contacts with approximately 2304 students, faculty, staff, and community members through programs.
- Had about 792 students visit the multicultural center with approximately 36% of those visitors identifying as first-time visitors.

Multicultural Education Highlights

- Completed twelve (12) multicultural education workshops interacting with approximately 331 students, faculty, and staff for overall education sessions.
- All workshops hosted by the Multicultural Center staff resulted in an increase in understanding about working with marginalized groups.

Student Success & Leadership Highlights

- 94% (33/35) of students who attended A-State Connection (high school recruitment program) applied for admission to A-State.
- Student leaders associated with the multicultural center report an increase in multicultural competence and leadership skills after one year of involvement.

Looking Ahead

- When planning programs, the Multicultural Center staff will work to implement aspects that help students with next steps to advocate for marginalized groups. Students learned the importance of advocating for others in the cultural sessions, but may need more details on how to advocate.
- Multicultural Center staff will work to create general training material that can be used at the beginner, intermediate or more advanced level for diversity and social justice training for student leaders, and implement when applicable. Student leaders enter at different levels and may require varying levels of training.
- Multicultural Center staff will work on personal development plans for student leaders who work in the center. The plan will detail how the student wants to grow during their time in the Multicultural Center. There will be semester check-points to review the plan and to implement action steps that help the student reach their goal.

Multicultural Programs

The multicultural center collaborated with over 20 organizations and departments for 2017-2018 programming. *Those groups include Black Student Association, Circle of Trust, Hispanic Organization and Latino/a Appreciation, Career Services, Leadership Center, Counseling Center, Disability Services, Residence life, National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), Office of Global Initiatives, Office of Diversity, Student Recruitment, Conduct Board, Academic Advising, Residence Life, Black Professionals Network of Jonesboro, the Writing Center, the Delta Symposium, ASU Museum. Through programs, we have engaged over 2300 students, faculty, staff and community members.*

Multicultural Mixers/Welcome Events

Fall 2017 Welcome Mixer

On Sunday, August 20, 2017, the MC held the first Multicultural Mixer in Centennial Hall of the Reng Student Union. The purpose of the event was to welcome incoming freshmen and their families to A-State. Students were able to mingle with other incoming students, multicultural student leaders, and multicultural faculty and staff. The mixer started with a formal welcome from Dr. Maurice Gipson and then students played engaging games while faculty, staff, parents and families visited during a scheduled mixer event in the mockingbird room. Various campus departments and student organizations set-up booths to discuss campus services and involvement opportunities with students. Approximately 150 faculty, staff, students, parents and families attended the event. Survey results indicated that over 85% met someone new at the event and over 95% enjoyed the event and would attend a similar event in the future.



Ice Cream Social

An Ice Cream Social was held on Monday, August 21, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to welcome student back to campus. About 100 student showed throughout the day to enjoy ice cream and learn about the Multicultural Center.



Fall Explosion

The Multicultural Center assisted the Black Student Association (BSA) with their annual Fall Explosion event on Wednesday, September 13, 2017. The event was held on heritage lawn with music by DJ King Vic. Dr. Allen opened with a welcome followed by an introduction of the BSA executive team members. Fifteen (15) Student organizations and departments hosted booths at the event and shared information about their organization or department with the audience. Students were able to sign-up to join organizations or to learn more about how to get involved. About 50 students attended the event.



Welcome Back Social

On Wednesday, January 17, The Multicultural Center hosted a welcome back lunch. The purpose of the event was to welcome students back for the spring 2018 semester and offer information on how to get involved with the Multicultural Center. About 160 students stopped by to grab “I love MC” shirts and to eat at the free fajita bar.





Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Kick-Off

The annual Hispanic Heritage Kick-Off was hosted on Thursday, September 14, 2017, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on heritage lawn. Students who attend the event enjoyed cultural games to assist with learning about Hispanic Heritage. Students were also able to make their own tacos at the Taco Bar. About 90 people stopped by to learn about what was happening for Hispanic Heritage Month.





DACA Forum

On Tuesday, October 3, 2017, the Multicultural Center in collaboration with the Office of Global Initiatives hosted a DACA forum. The purpose of the event was to discuss the recent executive order surrounding the DACA program, how the order affects college students, and information on advocating for those affected. Guest panelists were Ariel Snyder, local immigration lawyer; David Nunez, Arkansas Community Coalition, and Gina Gomez, Hispanic Community Services Center. About 40 individuals attended the event. Feedback indicated that the forum was informative, that individuals will use what they learned to advocate for others, and that individuals would attend a similar event in the future.



Mental Health Awareness

Mental Health Panel-Fall

On Wednesday, October 4, 2017, the Multicultural Center in Collaboration with The Counseling Center hosted a Depression Awareness Panel. The purpose of the event was to discuss depression, anxiety and other mental health diagnoses in an effort to end the stigma associated with discussing mental health and asking for help. Four student leaders Ashley Ehrhart, Taron Robinson, Dominic Williams, and Gina Jones participated on the panel and shared their personal stories related to mental health. Dr. Loretta McGregor moderated the panel and Dr. Asher Pimpleton Gray served as a guest expert on the panel. About 50 students attended the session and evaluations indicated that student were well informed about mental health during the panel, that the panelists were knowledgeable, that they will use what they learned in the future and that they would attend a similar event in the future.



Mental Health Panel-Spring

On Thursday, March 29, the Multicultural Center in collaboration with the Counseling Center hosted a mental health forum. The event was held in the Black River Room of the Reng Student Union at 6:00 P.M. The event started with an activity during which students listed their fears about mental health. Dr. Loretta McGreggor moderated the panel of students (Sarah Bullington, Taron Robinson, Stacie Chatman, and Austin Slater). About 50 faculty, staff, and students attended the event and the most powerful feedback was how the event encouraged students to open up about mental health.



LGBT + Awareness

LGBT+ Lecture

Guest, Dr. T.J. Jourian served as the lecturer for the annual LGBT+ & Gender Identity Lecture on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mockingbird Room of the Student Union. The purpose of the event was to discuss how to support and include transgender and gender nonconforming students in everyday practices. About 30 individuals attended the event. Feedback indicated that Dr. Jourian was an informative speaker on Transgender student visibility and some would like to see him back on campus for additional trainings.



Transgender Day of Remembrance

On Thursday, November 16th, the Multicultural Center hosted Transgender Day of Remembrance at 3:30 pm in the center. The purpose of the event was to recognize the lives of Transgender individuals lost in 2017 and to present information to increase understanding of individuals in the Transgender community. About 15 people attended the event and members from the Counseling Center were present to support students.



Native American Heritage Awareness

Native American Heritage Kick-Off

On Wednesday, November 1, the Multicultural Center hosted Native American Heritage Kick-Off, 11am to 1pm in the open court of the Reng Student Union. Students were able to stop by, enjoy cupcakes, hear facts about Native American Heritage, and learn about upcoming events for the month. About 60 student stopped by the kick-off table.



Day of Thanks

On Tuesday, November 21, 2017, the Multicultural Center hosted the MC Day of Thanks. The purpose of this event was to highlight the stories of indigenous people that are often not told during this season and to provide a meal for students who were not able to be with their families during the week of thanksgiving. About 35 faculty, staff, and students attended the event.





African American Heritage/Black History Month

Natural Hair Forum

On Wednesday, November 8th, 2017 the Multicultural Center collaborated with Career Services and The Black Professionals' Network of Jonesboro to host a Natural Hair Forum. The event was in Centennial Hall of the Reng Student Union. This event was designed to celebrate natural hair in all its forms. Local hairstylists shared information on maintenance, styling, and more! Attendees had the opportunity to watch quick natural hairstyle tutorials and win awesome raffle prizes from local hairstylists. Light Refreshments were served. Over 140 individuals attended the event and feedback indicated that the event was informative and that participants would like to see similar events in the future.





Black History Month Kick-Off

The Multicultural Center hosted the Black History Month Kick-off on Thursday, February 1, 2018 @11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the first floor of the Reng Student Union. During the event, participants learned the BHM 2018 theme, learned facts about Black history, mingled with NPHC organizations, celebrated the 49th anniversary of the Black Student Association, and got an overview of events for the month. Cake and punch was served! About 100+ students stopped by the display tables.





Black History Panel

The Multicultural Center hosted a panel discussion, “Why do we still celebrate Black History Month?” Thursday, February 1 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mocking Bird room (3rd floor Student Union). The event was a panel discussion with guest panelists Dr. Cherisse Jones-Branch, Dr. Patricia Walls, Dominic Williams, and Jon Mark Horton. The panel was an open dialogue about the origins of Black History Month and why it is still celebrated. About 60 individuals attended the event.



Soul Food Dinner

The Strong-Turner Alumni Association and the Multicultural Center hosted the annual Soul Food Day on Friday, February 9, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the ASU Armory. Various multicultural organizations on campus volunteered to serve the traditional soul food at this event. This was a great time to mingle over good food, Celebrate Black History Month and hear updates on cultural events at A-State. About 175 people were at this event.



Fake News, Wokeness, and the Black Lives Matter Movement

The Office of Diversity, Division of Student Affairs, and the Multicultural Center hosted speaker Mark Hayes for a lunch and learn event titled "Fake News, Wokeness, and the BLM Movement." The event will be held on Monday, February 12, 2018 at 12:00 P.M. in Centennial Hall of the Reng Student Union. About 80 participants attended.



David Banner: Hip Hop as a Tool for Social Activism

On Tuesday, February 27, the Multicultural Center and Office of Diversity hosted keynote speaker David Banner for his talk on Hip Hop as a tool for Social Activism. The event was held in Centennial Hall of the Reng Student Union at 7:00 p.m. This event closed Black History Month activities for 2018. About 180 individuals attended the event.



A Celebration of Black Hair, Art, Fashion, Entertainment and Dance

On Friday, March 28, 2018, at 7pm, The Multicultural Center partnered with the Black Student Association and Ejji Studios to host “Evolve: A Celebration of Black Hair, Art, Music, and Entertainment.” A-State students showcased their talent in modeling singing, and dance. Approximately 200 faculty, staff, students, and community members attended the event. Feedback was overwhelming to the extent that the event has been asked to be brought back next year.



People of Color in the Workplace

People of Color in the workplace was held on Friday, April 20 at 5:00 P.M. in the Mockingbird Room of the Reng Student Union. About 25 people attended the event and heard from panelists Dr. Fabricio Medina-Bolivar, Gina Gomez, Pamelia Aboyage, and Vandell Bland. Dr. Maurice Gipson facilitated the panel. Panelists answered questions about navigating the workplace as a person of color and gave career tips to those who attended the workshop. Participate indicated a 9.5/10 average that they enjoyed the event, a 9.5/10 that they enjoyed the panelists, a 9.3/10 average that the information was beneficial, and 9.4/10 that they would attend a similar event in the future.

Women's History Month

Women's History Month Kick-Off

The Multicultural Center hosted the Women's History Month Kick-off on Thursday, March 1, 2018 @11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the first floor of the Reng Student Union. During the event, the challenges, struggles, and accomplishments of women across the globe were highlighted. Also, students were able to see the list of events for the month. Refreshments were served. About 100 + students attended the event

Women in the Workplace

On Tuesday, March 13, at 6:00 P.M., the Multicultural Center in Collaboration with Career Services and the Counseling Center, hosted "Women in the Workplace." The event was held in the Auditorium of the Reng Student Union. During the event, discussions occurred in relation to the unique challenges and struggles of women in the workforce. A panel of five women across various disciplines shared their stories with the audience. Panelists were: Parisa Brown (Frito Lay Manufacturing), Cristy Case (Farm Credit Midsouth), Dr. Devi Nair (St. Bernard's), Shalon Tate (Jonesboro Math and Science), and Dr. Kathy Loyd (College of Business). The panel was moderated by Dr. Brenda Randle, CEO of The Writing Doctor. Approximately 80+ people attended the event.

Book Talk

On Wednesday March 28, 2018, The Multicultural Center hosted a book talk and kicked-off the March book club. The book for March was "We're Going to need more Wine" by Gabrielle Union. The book is full of stories about power, color, gender, feminism, and fame. She tackles bullying, beauty standards, and competition between women in Hollywood & other important issues. About 10 students attended the event, but those who attended really enjoyed the discussion.

Non-Traditional Student Services

Non-Traditional Student Services helps connect nontraditional students to Arkansas State University and Jonesboro by providing educational and social resources and programs to help ensure their success.

Non-Trad Grab and Go Lunch

Non-Traditional Students were invited to enjoy a FREE lunch on Tuesday, August 22, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The first 50 students enjoyed lunch, learned about the Non-Traditional Student Organization (NTSO) and Non-Trad initiatives from the Multicultural Center. About 60 students attended the event.



Non-Traditional Student Interest Meeting

An interest meeting for the Non-Traditional Student Organization was held on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. with a second opportunity at 6:00 p.m. About 6 students attending the interest sessions. During the session students learned the purpose of NTSO, how to get involved, and discussed initiatives and concerns for non-traditional students at A-State.

Transfer Resource Fair

On Thursday, September 14, 2017, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. the Multicultural Center assisted the Wilson Advising Center with the first Transfer Resource Fair. Students who attended the event learned about various departments on campus, tips for transferring to A-State, and had the opportunity to win awesome door prizes. About 40 students attended the event and about 20 departments on campus spoke about events and happenings from their department. Departments were the Counseling Center, Admissions, Records, and Registration, Career Services, Disability Services, Financial Aid and Scholarships, Leadership Center & Food Pantry, Learning Commons, Multicultural Center, Parking Services, OTC, Study Aboard, Student Conduct Student Health Center, Treasurer's Office, University Police Department.



Non-Trad Fall Fest

The Non-Traditional Student Fall Fest was held on Saturday, October 7, 2017 at 12 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on The Village lawn. This event was a collaboration with A-State Residence Life. About 125 individuals attended the event. Activities included a balloon artist, inflatables, face painting, and a photo booth. Food was served and DJ George joined us for the event. Feedback from students indicated that they enjoyed the event.



Non-Trad Lunch and Learn

The Non-Traditional Student Lunch & Learn event was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Special guests from Career Services offered tips on preparing for job interviews, obtaining an internship, improving the resume, and more. About 10 people attended the session. The students who attended indicated that the information was helpful and they would use career services in the future.



Non-Trad Spring Fest

The Multicultural Center hosted the Non-Trad Spring Festival on Saturday April 21, 2018 at 12pm to 3pm. The purpose of the event is a family friendly event for non-traditional students and their families. During the event, students and their families were able to participate in booths with bouncy houses, face paint, dunk booth, balloon artist and photo booth. Free food was served as well. About 150 students and their families attended the event.

Multicultural Education

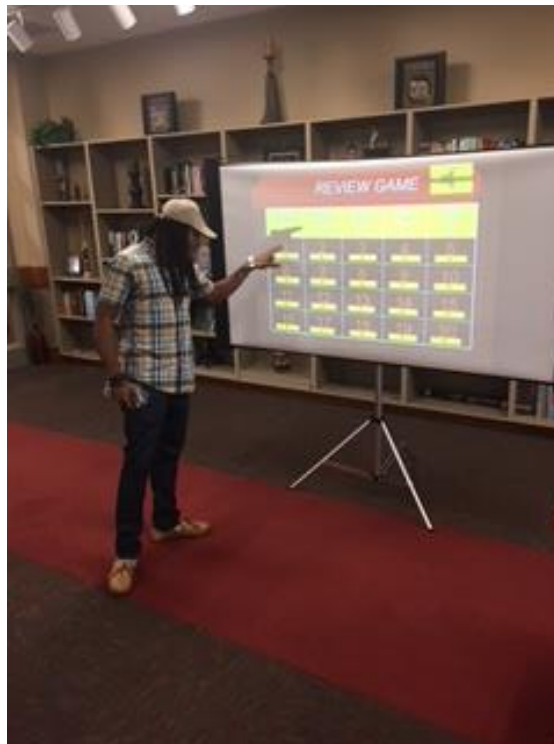
Multicultural education encompasses trainings, workshops or other initiatives that further educational conversations about diversity, inclusion, and social justice.

Multicultural Monday Trivia

On Monday, August 28, 2017, the Multicultural Center held the first Multicultural Monday Trivia event from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. The event highlighted Diversity Awareness Month. Students were asked trivia questions about diversity topics and received prizes for correct answers. About 4 students participated in the event.

On Monday, September 11, 2017, the Multicultural Center held a Multicultural Monday Trivia event with questions on religious diversity. The event was held 11 a.m. to 1p.m. in the Multicultural Center. About 15 students attended and participated in the event throughout the timeframe. Students were able to win prizes such as earbuds, sunglasses, and T-shirts for correct answers.

On Monday, November 6th, 2017 the Multicultural Center held a Multicultural Monday Trivia event with questions on Native American Heritage. The event was held 11 a.m. to 1p.m. in the Multicultural Center. Students were able to win prizes such as earbuds, sunglasses, and T-shirts for correct answers.





Diversity and Inclusion Trainings



Residence Life Hall Staff (7.7.17) were trained on biases and how to overcome biases in ways that help us learn about ourselves and work well across various identities. Four (4) individuals attended the training and evaluations indicated that the average person in the session learned more about themselves and how to incorporate diversity in everyday settings.

Graduate Hall Directors (7.21.17 & 7.25.17) were trained on biases, understanding their identities, the impact of biases, and the need for inclusive language. Fourteen (14) individuals attended the training and evaluations indicated scores of 4 or 5 out of 5 for usefulness of information and speaker knowledge.

On Wednesday, July 12, Dr. Allen conducted a workshop for students in the ACT Prep course program hosted by the Office of Diversity. Dr. Allen informed about 50 students about the mission to the MC, and program and services within the MC. The session concluded with a discussion on the importance of diversity, the importance of getting involved while on campus, and navigating campus as an underrepresented student.

On August 3, 2017 at 1:00 p.m., Dr. Allen conducted a session on Diversity in Leadership for Camp A-State students. About 40 students were in attendance.

Dr. Allen conducted a session for the Student Support Services bridge program on Monday, August 14, 2017, 1p.m.-2:30 p.m. The session topic was cultivating diversity while in college. Students were encouraged to think about their identities and how their identities affect biases and how they walk through life. Students (25) left the session with a challenge to be open to various perspectives and learning about other cultures while at A-State.

On Wednesday, August 9, 2017, Dr. Allen and Ms. Rachel Hendrix conducted a diversity training for about 80 Resident Assistants. Students discussed their identities, privilege, biases, and macroaggressions.

- Student evaluations indicated that the average participant increased their understanding of diversity and inclusion from 7.3 to 8.8 on a scale of 10. 75% indicated that their level of understanding increased, while 25% indicated that their level of understanding remained the same.
- In relation to usefulness of information: 83% of participants indicated that the information presented was very good or excellent. 13% indicated the information presented was good in usefulness. 3% indicated the information presented was fair.
- In relation to knowledge of the presenters, 97% of students indicated that the knowledge of the speakers was very good or excellent, and 3% indicated the knowledge of the speakers was good.

On Thursday, October 26, 2017, Dr. Allen conducted a diversity training for about 24 freshman students in a freshman seminar course (Instructor Melissa Jackson). Students discussed diversity versus inclusion and social justice, identities, biases, and macroaggressions.

- Student evaluations indicated that the average participant increased their understanding of diversity and inclusion from 5.75 to 9 on a scale of 10.
- In relation to usefulness of information: 95% of participants indicated that the information presented was very good or excellent. 5% indicated the information presented was good in usefulness.

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- In relation to knowledge of the presenters, 100% of students indicated that the knowledge of the speakers was excellent.

On Wednesday, November 1, 2017, Dr. Allen conducted a diversity training for about 20 freshman students in a freshman seminar course (Instructor Jerrod Lockhart). Students discussed diversity versus inclusion and social justice, identities, biases, and macroaggressions.

- Student evaluations indicated that the average participant increased their understanding of diversity and inclusion from 5.85 to 8.2 on a scale of 10.
- In relation to usefulness of information: 75% of participants indicated that the information presented was very good or excellent. 15% indicated the information presented was good in usefulness. 10% indicated the information was fair in usefulness.
- In relation to knowledge of the presenters, 90% of students indicated that the knowledge of the speakers was very good or excellent.

On Wednesday, November 15, Dr. Allen presented a mini diversity session to about 7 student leaders on the student conduct board at A-State. 100 % of student indicated the knowledge of the presenter was good or excellent, 85% indicated that the usefulness of information was excellent, and 15% indicated that the usefulness of the information was fair.

On Saturday, January 13, Dr. Allen presented a social justice workshop for student workers and staff of the Red Wolf Center. During the presentation, attendees discuss their identities, microaggressions, and how to advocate for marginalized groups. About 25 students and staff were present.

- Student evaluations indicated that the average participant increased their understanding of diversity and inclusion from 6.41 to 8.47 on a scale of 10. 94% indicated that their level of understanding increased, while 6% indicated that their level of understanding remained the same.
- In relation to usefulness of information: 100% of participants indicated that the information presented was very good or excellent.
- In relation to knowledge of the presenters, 100% of students indicated that the knowledge of the speakers was very good or excellent

On Monday, April 23, 2018, Dr. Allen conducted a diversity training for about 13 faculty and peer mentors involved with the Bridge Summer Program. Participants discussed equity versus equality, social identities, microaggressions, and advocating for marginalized groups.

- Evaluations indicated that the average participant increased their understanding of diversity and inclusion from 6.25 to 8.61 on a scale of 10.
- In relation to usefulness of information: 92% of participants indicated that the information presented was very good or excellent. 8% indicated the information presented was good in usefulness.

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- In relation to knowledge of the presenters, 100% of students indicated that the knowledge of the speakers was very good or excellent.

On Thursday, May 31, 2018, Dr. Allen conducted a diversity training for about 11 peer mentors involved with the Bridge Summer Program. Participants discussed equity versus equality, social identities, microaggressions, and advocating for marginalized groups.

- Evaluations indicated that the average participant increased their understanding of diversity and inclusion from 5.54 to 9.09 on a scale of 10.
- In relation to usefulness of information: 100% of participants indicated that the information presented was excellent.
- In relation to knowledge of the presenters, 100% of students indicated that the knowledge of the speakers was excellent.

MC Staff Workshops Attended

NASPA Multicultural Institute

Dr. Allen and Ms. Rachel Hendrix attended the NASPA Multicultural Institute on December 10-12, 2017. During the conference, they attended sessions on establishing a peer educator program, multicultural retreats, changing the rhetoric around diversity and inclusion on campuses, programming on predominantly white campuses, supporting students of color, supporting transgender students, and self-care. They will use this knowledge to contribute to programs in the multicultural center for Spring 2018 and beyond.

Safe Zone Training

On February 9-10, Dr. Evette Allen and Ms. Rachel Hendrix attended level 2 Safe Zone training. The purpose of the training was to prepare faculty and staff to create spaces that are inclusive and welcoming for students, specifically in the LGBT+ community. Using the information learned in this training, the Multicultural Center, along with other faculty and staff attendees, will offer safe zone training to faculty, staff, and students at A-State.

Peer Educator Program

The Social Justice Peer Educators lead initiatives that assisted with advancing knowledge about diversity, inclusion, and social justice. Program goals are:

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- To provide an opportunity for A-State Students to be actively involved in the creation and dissemination of knowledge around diversity, equity, and social justice.
 - To provide education resources where the A-State community is exemplifying proactive means rather than reactive means to teach students about critical skills.
 - To help A-State students develop skills to engage in an increasingly diverse society and to advocate for marginalized groups.

Interest Meeting

The Multicultural Center hosted Peer Educator Interest Meetings on Thursday, January 25 at 12noon and 6pm. Twelve (12) students attended the interest meetings. Peer educators will be trained on topics of diversity, inclusion, and social justice with an emphasis on facilitating conversations with their peers. Applications were due February 16, 2018 and 10 students applied to be a part of the program.

Program Assessment

Of the students who participated in the Peer Educator Pilot for Spring 2018, the average participant indicated an increase of 1.5 (3.00 to 4.50) in their multicultural competence, the average participant indicated an increase of 0.5 (4.00 to 4.50) in their multicultural skills. Key qualitative findings indicated that students felt more confident holding conversations on sensitive issues and became more aware of areas of privilege as a result of the program. Overall, the program addressed student learning as it introduced students to information that they can use to enhance their leadership skills and to work with others across identities.

Student Success and Leadership

Student Engagement & Retention

During the 2017-2018 academic year, the Multicultural center staff had contact with approximately 792 students who visited the center on various occasions. New visitors to the center increased by 36% for 2017-2018. Through multicultural programs and other initiatives, the Multicultural Center staff had contacts with approximately 2,304 students, faculty, staff, and community members for the academic year.

Multicultural Ambassador Program



The purpose of the Multicultural Ambassador Program at Arkansas State University is to provide opportunities for students to take an active role in educational, cultural, social, and leadership opportunities for students on campus as it pertains to multiculturalism, equity, and social justice. The overall goal of the program is to promote the genuine celebration of differences and promote multicultural awareness that assists with engaging across cultures and in everyday settings. Multicultural Ambassadors are responsible for facilitating and implementing various aspects of cultural programs, educational workshops, and leadership development opportunities throughout the school year.

MC Ambassador Selection

The Multicultural Center Ambassador applications were due Monday, August 28 and ambassadors were interviewed on August 29th and 30th. Ambassadors were notified of their status by August 31, 2017. The MCA retreat was held September 1-2 in the multicultural center. 10 Multicultural Ambassadors will assist with cultural programs and initiatives for Fall 2017 and Spring 2018.

MC Ambassador Retreats

The 2017-2018 Ambassador team held their retreat on September 1-2, 2017. During the retreat the ambassadors discussed the mission and vision of the Multicultural Center, expectations as an MCA, event planning, leadership development, personal strengths, and social identities and inclusion.

The multicultural ambassadors held their spring training on January 6-7, 2018 in North Little Rock, AR. The retreat was used to plan events for Spring 2018, connect as a team, and to prepare for spring 2018. The ambassadors left the event with a full calendar of anticipated events and initiatives for Spring 2018.

MC Ambassador Assessment

- Students who participated in the program indicated that on average their confidence in their leadership skills grew by 1.2 points (3.2 to 4.4). Additionally, confidence in their multicultural skills increased by 1.8 points on a 5 point scale (2.8 to 4.6).
- When asked “In what ways have you developed as a multicultural leader over the past semester?”, MCAs indicated Program planning skills, Public speaking skills/speaking about differences, Removed assumptions, Knowledge about working with marginalized identities, Teamwork, and Social skills.
- When asked “How have you used what you have learned about diversity in your program planning and everyday interactions?” MCAs indicated Awareness of harmful language, Mindfulness about difference, Knowledge of how to advocate for others, and Confidence in interacting across difference.
- When asked “Has this program impacted your long-term or short term goals? MCAs indicated Teamwork, Knowledge for working across differences in chosen field, Social skills/Networking Skills, and High ethical standards.

A-State Connection

A-State Connection was held on Friday, April 27 and Saturday, April 28, 2018 on the campus of Arkansas State University. The program is co-hosted by the Office of Diversity, Multicultural Center, and the Office of Recruitment. Thirty-Five (35) high-school students attended. A-State Connection is an overnight diversity recruitment program designed for high achieving high school juniors from underrepresented racial/ethnic backgrounds. Students received information about A-State resources and tips on how to successfully navigate college. The weekend was filled with fun and informative sessions to connect students to all aspects of academic and campus life at A-State. 94% (33/35) of students who attended A-State Connection applied for admission to A-State.



Thompson Scholarship

The Thompson scholarship committee met on Friday, September 8 to select Thompson Scholarship recipients for 2017-2018. Students were selected based on financial need, academic achievement, essay responses, and A-State campus and community service. Recipients for 2017-2018 were: Taylor Coulter, McKinley James, Shadeanna Gatlin, and Vankevia Garner. Each of the students received a \$2,000 scholarship to be split between fall and spring semesters. Students who are awarded the scholarship are required to maintain a 2.75 GPA, remain in campus housing, and remain in good conduct standing to maintain the scholarship.

Academic Honors/Graduation Celebrations



Fall Multicultural Graduation

On Monday, December 4, 2017, the Multicultural Center held the Multicultural Graduation Celebration 6:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. The purpose of the event was to recognize the accomplishments of underrepresented students at A-State and to wish them well on their future endeavors after graduation. Eighteen (18) graduates attended the celebration to be recognized along with about 40 faculty, staff, and family supporters. Light refreshments were served, graduates received certificates, tassels, and leadership cords if they were involved in a student organization while attending A-state.

Strong-Turner 3.00 Ceremony

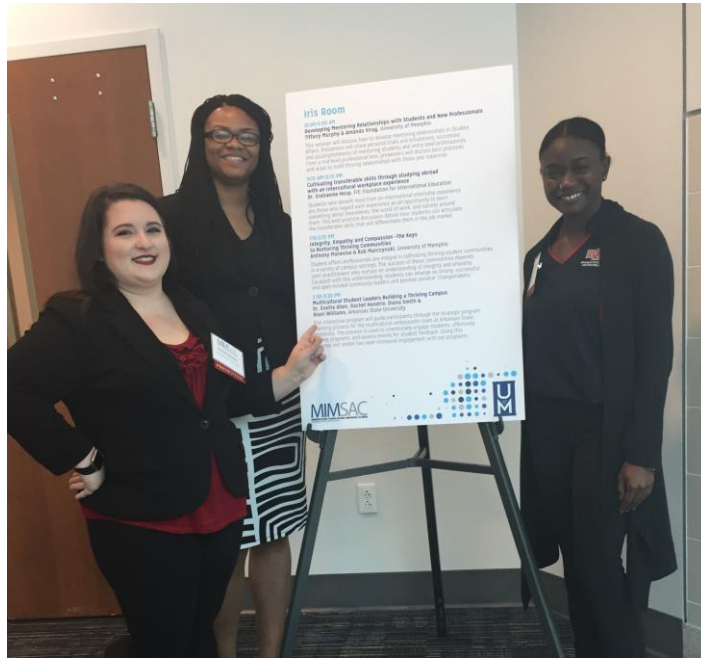
The annual Strong-Turner 3.00 Ceremony was held on Friday, April 20, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. in Centennial Hall of the Reng Student Union. The event is co-sponsored by the Strong-Turner Alumni Chapter and the Multicultural Center. Eighty-two (82) scholars and 123 guests RSVPd for the event. The purpose of the event is to honor the academic achievements for African American students at A-State. Dr. Tamara Glover served as the keynote speaker.

Spring Multicultural Graduation

On Monday, April 30, 2018, the Multicultural Center held the Multicultural Graduation Celebration 6:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. The purpose of the event was to recognize the accomplishments of underrepresented students at A-State and to wish them well on their future endeavors after graduation. Fifty-Five (55) graduates attended the celebration to be recognized along with about 40

faculty, staff, and family supporters. Light refreshments were served, graduates received certificates, and leadership cords if they were involved in a student organization while attending A-state.

Awards and Recognition



NASPA Region IV-West Conference Presentation

Dr. Allen's proposal to the NASPA Region IV-West conference was accepted. She presented at the conference November 7-9, 2017 in Lincoln, NE. The presentation was titled "The Role of Professional Associations for Graduate Students and New Professionals." During the presentation she discussed how professional associations aid in the development and overall growth for new professionals and graduate students in student affairs.

NASPA Annual Conference Presentation

Dr. Allen was selected to present two sessions at the Annual NASPA conference 2018, March 3-7, 2018 in Philadelphia, PA.. She presented on "Using Socialization Experiences from Professional Associations to Aid Your Career in Student Affairs," and "A Different Kind of Homecoming: Working at Your Alma Mater as a New Professional."

NASPA National Position

Dr. Allen was inaugurated as the National Co-Chair for NASPA New Professionals and Graduate Students (NPGS) Knowledge Community (KC) at the 2018 NASPA Conference in March. She will serve in this role 2018-2020 and will oversee initiatives that strengthen the experiences and professional development of new professionals and graduate students within NASPA and the student affairs profession.

Learn @ State Presentation

Dr. Allen presented at learn @State on Wednesday, March 14, 2018. The presentation covered the Peer Educators program coordinated by the Multicultural Center. The Center currently has about 8 student leaders committed to undergoing trainings and helping to educate their peers on social justice. Overall, this project has attention to these questions: (1) What are the experiences of undergraduate students who participate in a leadership and social justice peer educator program? (2) Does participation in a leadership and social justice program produce culturally competent student leaders? Data was assessed after the Spring 2018 semester and used to launch the program for 2018-2019.

Higher Education Publication

Dr. Allen served as first author of a newly published piece in the NASPA Journal about Women in Higher Education. The piece was co-authored with Dr. Nicole M. Joseph, Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt University. The article is titled "The Sistah Network: Enhancing the Educational and Social Experiences of Black Women in the Academy." This piece highlights the experiences of Black women at a PWI while working on their advanced degrees. The stories of mentors to these women are also highlighted.

Student Leader Award

Multicultural Ambassador President, Christian Canizales, received an award for his outstanding service and leadership as the 2017-2018 president of the MC Ambassador group. Christian graduated with a Bachelor's degree in education in Spring 2018 and will head to Little Rock, AR to pursue his Master's degree in public administration starting Fall 2018.

MIMSAC Conference Presentation

Dr. Evette Allen, Rachel Hendrix, and Niani Williams (student) presented at the annual Memphis in May Student Affairs Conference (MIMSAC) on Friday, May 18, 2018. They presented on "Multicultural Student Leaders Building a Thriving Campus." The purpose of the program was to guide participants through the strategic program planning process for the multicultural ambassador team at Arkansas State University. The process is used to intentionally engage students, effectively market programs, and assess events for student feedback.

Rookie of the Year Nominee

Dr. Allen was nominated for the Rookie of the Year award for her leadership in the Multicultural Center for 2017-2018. Nominees for the award are individuals who have less than two years of experience at Arkansas State University, excel in their ability, have excellent work ethic, have an extraordinary impact on their department as a role model, and have an obvious connection with students, faculty, staff, and administrators.