

The Student Affairs Diversity Council (SADC) strives to cultivate an environment that embraces and promotes the broad scope of diversity within the division.

The Power of What Higher Education Can Do Is a Gift



By Liz Morales, Sophomore,
NASPA Undergraduate Fellow, and future Student Affairs professional

I still remember the first day acceptance letters were being sent out to the students in my high school. I had applied to every single university in Utah with the hopes that I would be accepted to each one, but knowing that the only acceptance letter that really mattered to me would be the one from the University of Utah. The first letter that I received came in a very small envelope from Utah State letting me know that I had not been accepted, my heart dropped. In the pit of my stomach I knew that the next few days were going to be torture waiting for the next few letters of denied acceptance.

Social media exploded that week with acceptance post,

so it made it almost impossible to not freak out on whether my dream school had accepted me or not. I waited almost a month to finally have the courage to call admissions after school with a friend and to my surprise they said I had been accepted. I hung up with tears in my eyes and the biggest urge to call my brother and to tell him he wouldn't be the only University of Utah student in our family

The acceptance letter didn't just mean I would be able to attend the university. It meant that I would be the first woman in my family to be going into higher education, it meant that I had made it through the first of many pipelines, it meant that my little sister and nephews would have someone to talk to about college, it meant that I had the opportunity to break the poverty cycle in my family, and it meant I finally had the choice to determine my future after graduation.

Now having two years almost done with at the U. I couldn't have ever imagined meeting the people who I have met, working with the many programs here on campus, and finding myself in Student Affairs. And most importantly feeling a sense of belonging and growing into the person that I have become very proud of. It's almost a huge two year blur of trials and errors and sleepless nights but I have grown to appreciate every single minute.

Being a first generation student especially at such a

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

big university has been as difficult as it sounds. Coming from a minority background and knowing that my story is only one of the million voices here on campus makes me realize where I stand and the importance of taking advantage of the billions of opportunities that one has in helping the community. Even if that means having to leave your comfort zone. Who knows, the person who is sitting right behind you in a presentation that you really didn't want to attend might become the first person to tell you can go to graduate school, and the person only a few seats away from her made it possible to hug the first Latina Supreme Court Justice.

After my first denied college acceptance letter I didn't feel that I was good enough, and I believe that the statistics of a Latina going into college were true and that I wouldn't be able to make it. A couple days later after hearing my acceptance to the U, Utah State sent a letter confirming there had been an error and I had been accepted. The power of what higher education can do for someone is an extraordinary gift that someone can have and someone can give. Being a student at the U I have learned that.

"I am an ordinary person who has been blessed with extraordinary opportunities and experiences. Today is one of those experiences." -Sonia Sotomayor

TED Talks: Rosie King & Terrell Strayhorn



["How Autism Freed Me To Be Myself"](#)



["Inalienable Rights - Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Belonging"](#)

RadioWest:

"The Man Who Couldn't Stop"

Doug Frabrizio has David Adam on the show to talk about his book "The Man Who Couldn't Stop: OCD and the True Story of a Life in Thought." [\[Book link\]](#) David Adam is a writer at Nature.

Listen Now Online at radiowest.kuer.org

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Student Affairs Diversity Council Understanding Diversity Seminar Series

Subject: How about Mental Health: What you need to know to support those who struggle

Presenter: Rob Davies
Associate Director,
Counseling Center



Date: Wed., April 15, 2015

Time/Location: 12:00-1:30 pm
Pano East, Union
(4th floor)

Upcoming Events

April 6-10th

Asian American Awareness Week

[\[more info\]](#)

April 10-11

Sustaining Our Culture POWWOW

[\[more info\]](#)

RadioWest: "Utah's Anti-discrimination/ Religious Freedom Balance"



Listen as host Doug Fabrizio focuses his shows discussion on one of the most talked about bills of the legislative session, the LGBT anti-discrimination bill. Doug is joined by Salt Lake Tribune writer Jennifer Dobner, University of Utah College of Law professor Cliff Rosky, and Spokesman for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Michael Purdy. [\[Listen Here\]](#)



For more information and resources, please visit:

sadc.utah.edu

Debra Daniels, Co-chair Women's Resource Center
Kari Ellingson, Co-chair Student Development
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Michael Bard, Registrar's Office
Karen Cone-Uemura, Counseling Center
Stephanie Charles, Financial Aid
Branden Dalley, Union Administration
Kris Fenn, Bennion Center
Marci Healy, Conference & Guest Services
Matt McCarthy, Campus Recreation
Nomani Satuala, Orientation / Leadership Development

Kassy Keen, Center for Student Wellness
Chris Macias, TRIO
Carol MacNicholl, Center for Disability Services
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