

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

Reflection on Diversity of Experiences

By Stephanie Charles, Financial Aid Office

The modules and the seminars were very informative and very intense. I found the experience to be intense in every way possible. The idea of sitting down and discussing real struggles through one's experiences was very eye opening for me. Addressing real issues on campus and in our society only shows that a change needs to happen. It made me appreciate other's differences, but also as a person who is not from Utah made me appreciate Utah. Not only could I engage in such conversations about my own experiences, but I could listen to others and feel the emotion and sense of unity through our struggles. Majority of the time I felt safe, but I feel that was due to the lack of Native American staff that were representative to me on campus and on the council. If other Native Americans were in the conversation then I truly believe that I would have either conflicted with their ideas or their experiences. I feel that way because as Native Americans we are all brought up differently and there is still a very real separation among us. It is those who were brought up on the reservation and continued to practice cultural beliefs, and there are those who left the reservation and who have very little knowledge of the culture and traditions. There are those Native Americans who identify through blood quantity but has never experienced the real struggles of racism, discrimination, displacement, or any form of genocide that has occurred. I have yet to deal with that challenge, but through the modules I feel that I can continue to respect other's differences.

The experience has impacted my position as a student affairs professional by demonstrating leadership. The



leadership that is called transformational leadership that holds ethics and values as a priority to lead others. I am able to appreciate my students' differences and able to see that their struggles are different when I review student files as a financial aid counselor. The student's differences remind me of why I am here in Salt Lake City. I could have stayed in Arizona where I was comfortable but I wanted a challenge. I wanted to be among a different population of people that could educate more about me, others and society.

The trainings have encouraged me to discuss what is real. It showed that we can come together and discuss these subjects. I believe it brings our campus closer and the next step to take is to act on it. It creates us to be leaders and to stand up for social justice in our society or on campus.

SADC Pursuit of Inclusion Awards

The 2015 Pursuit of Inclusion Award recipients are the University Counselling Center's Intern Diversity Initiative Program and Taylor Russell.



The University Counselling Center's Intern Diversity Initiative Program has collaborated with various offices on campus to continue to promote their knowledge and skills to serve students who come from various cultures and backgrounds. In their aim to "promote and maintain liaison collaborations between themselves and other offices to serve the needs of underserved populations on campus" the interns in this program have created initiatives that are reflective of multiculturalism and inclusion.

Of the wonderful initiatives they've carried out, some include a Multicultural Issues Course; trainings and outreach on anti-racism and white privilege; and food insecurities (among a list of many). Not only do they intentionally identify unique needs of underrepresented students to support their persistence, but they continue to seek out solutions and recommendations to take the "next steps". Additionally, their efforts have contributed to increased opportunities for dialogue on diversity.

This program offers their graduate interns the chance to enhance their own multicultural awareness and gain the skills to promote and sustain

the overall diversity initiatives on our campus and specifically in Student Affairs.

Taylor Russell has demonstrated above and beyond achievements on campus and in her community. She is from Kirtland, New Mexico and is far from home to seek her undergraduate degree in Biology. I have heard from the march that being an American Indian student in higher education was more of a burden than a privilege to attend college due to the poverty and limited resources on the reservation. This award will help to alleviate some of the financial struggles that students tend to experience while in school.



I had the honor to meet Taylor for the first time at the University's pow-wow this past year and I was so impressed by her courage to dress traditionally and socialize with others. She is our current American Indian Woman Scholar here at the U. She serves on the Inter-Tribal Student Association as the treasurer. On Utah's Indigenous Day in November she dressed up in her Navajo attire along with her AWIS crown and attended all of her classes on campus that day. She continues to travel from various states to various fairs and events representing the University of Utah American Indian Woman Scholar. We are honored to present the student Pursuit of Inclusion Award to Taylor Russell.

Upcoming SADC Diversity Modules



Tuesday, January 19

Module 1: Exploring Self & Others

Parlor A, Union

1:00pm—4:00pm

Wednesday, January 20

Module 2: Exploring Power, Bias, & Values

Den, Union

9:00am—11:00am

Thursday, January 21

Module 3: Putting it all Together —
Dialoging About Social Justice

Den, Union

9:00am—11:00am

Sign up for the modules on the SADC Website using our [Training Module Sign Up Form](#).

TED TALKS



[Chelsea Shields: How I'm working for change inside my church](#)



[Jenni Chang and Lisa Dazols: This is what LGBT life is like around the world](#)



[Melissa Fleming: A boat carrying 500 refugees sunk at sea. The story of two survivors](#)

Upcoming January Seminar Series

The Development of Yourself and Realizing You Are Unique



Wednesday, January 20, 2016

12:00-1:30pm,
Pano East, Union

Eri Hayward has a degree from Utah Valley University in Behavioral Science, works in Pleasant Grove, and has bought her dream home in Springville. Making her officially one of those, Utahans" but with a twist. She continues to share her experiences with university classes and other educational groups in Utah. She still dreams of getting paid to do nothing but sew and crochet while sitting by warmth of her wood burning stove but is happy with where she is now.

For any person at any stage, growing up can be complicated with unexpected turns and dips. Being able to separate my internal self from all the external influences was crucial for rebuilding myself identity and self confidence. Being trans kind of gave me a boost in doing just that and there was a lot

to learn when what I was told about the world stopped applying to who I was or who I wanted to be.

View her documentary at <https://vimeo.com/82104871>



The Supreme Court Considers Affirmative Action As Campus Protests Over Racial Bias Continue

Listen to Diane Rehm and her guests discuss the Supreme Court case on admissions policies and ongoing protests on dozens of campuses calling for cultural sensitivity.

Listen Now at thedianerehmshow.org.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Saturday, January 23rd
9 AM- Noon

Various locations across the Salt Lake valley including:
Utah Food Bank, First Step House, Maliheh Free Clinic,
Homeless Youth Resource Center, YWCA and the Bennion Center

Pre- register online at www.bennioncenter.org

Day of registration will take place in the Union from 8:15 AM- 8:45 AM

For additional questions
contact Bryce Williams at 801-581-4811



Upcoming University and Community Events

January 18 @ 2:30-4pm

MLK Jr Celebration: March & Rally

East High School to Kingsbury Hall [[more info](#)]



January 20 @ 12pm

MLK Jr Celebration: Spoken Word with "Truth Cypher"

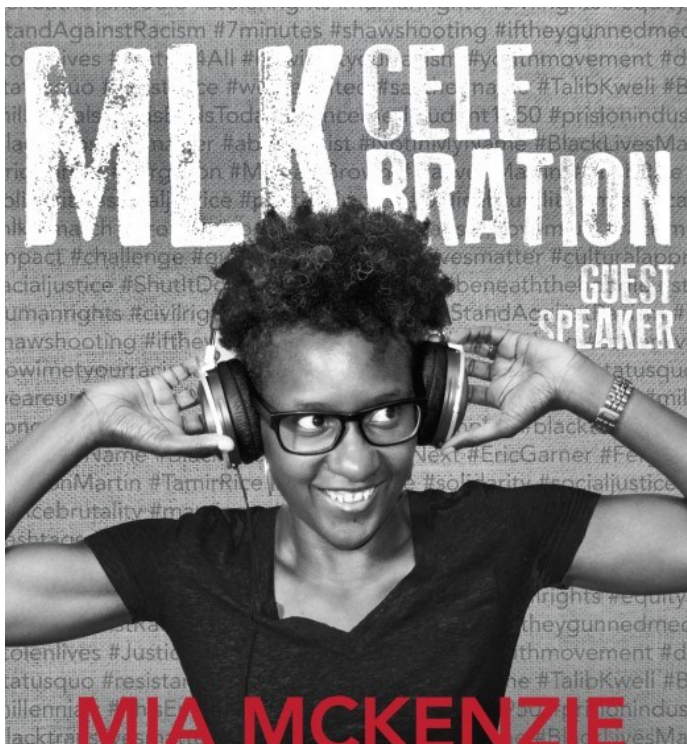
East Ballroom, Union [[more info](#)]



January 19 @ 12-1:15pm

A Discussion w/ Black Girl Dangerous

Union Saltair Room [[more info](#)]



January 22 @ 12-1:30pm

MLK Jr Celebration: Standing in Solidarity? Pizza & Politics

Hinckley Caucus Room [[more info](#)]

January 21 @ 12-1:30pm

MLK Jr Celebration Keynote: Talib Kweli

Union Ballroom [[more info](#)]



January 23 @ 9:00am

MLK Jr Celebration: Day of Service, preregister and

find more information at bennioncenter.org

university of utah student affairs
diversity council

Debra Daniels, Co-chair Women's Resource Center
Rob Davies, Co-chair Student Development
Chris Anderson, Housing & Residential Education
Michael Bard, Registrar's Office
Stephanie Charles, Financial Aid
Branden Dalley, Union Administration
Marci Healy, Conference & Guest Services
Matt McCarthy, Campus Recreation
Nomani Satuala, Center for New Students & Family Programs
Kassy Keen, Center for Student Wellness

Chris Macias, TRIO
Carol MacNicholl, Center for Disability Services
Kai Medina-Martinez, LGBT Center
Sana Muller, ASUU
Duane Padilla, Housing & Residential Education
Rachana Patel, Office of Admissions
Valery Pozo, Career Services
Nick Robbins, Dean of Students Office
Belinda Otukolo Saltiban, Office of Inclusive Excellence
Bryce Williams, Bennion Center

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