

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

Reflection

By Eric Bloomquist,
Career & Professional Development Center

In some ways, I don't even want a diversity certificate. What am I going to do with it? Hang it on my wall and proclaim to the masses that, all of a sudden, I am now fully diversity-aware and all-inclusive? Hear me, there is incredible value in the diversity certificate activities and I certainly feel more aware of social justice issues, my own privilege, and methods of dialogue now that I have gone through the program requirements. Yet, it still feels somewhat pretentious for me to receive recognition for this milestone on the way toward an unattainable goal of creating a socially just world.

So, what from here?... Anyone who knows me well knows I am not one to open an essay with a pessimistic view of the way things are, and then just let it be. So, the positive: as a result of the diversity certificate program, I am increasingly knowledgeable about my own privilege and the ways in which systems have been set up to benefit me. I believe I am more understanding of the unique needs and concerns of marginalized groups to which I have never previously given thought. As a result of this program, I feel more aware as a student affairs practitioner and can be a stronger advocate for the students I serve. I am not naïve to think that my completion of this certificate (or, for that matter, your completion of your certificate) will fix all the injustice in the world; yet, I feel more equipped for doing my part in making incremental changes at my local level. Specifically, I think my most important realization through this program is that social justice work is not entirely accessible to the people I interact with in the "real" world (that is, the world outside of Student Affairs and Higher Education). My goal and



challenge moving forward is to find ways in which social justice work can be effectively carried on to the people around me who are not in the higher education bubble. After all, the "real world" is the very place our students will live once their time at the U is finished.

As a straight, cis-gendered, white, able-bodied, Christian male with a wife and an above average household income, I recognize that I lead an incredibly privileged life and, unless prompted, don't often have personal cause to concern myself with the inequities of the world because I fit so easily within the systems around me, and most always have. Growing up in an area with many other

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straight, cis-, white, Christian people, I look back on my upbringing and see many people who—I assume—also don't find themselves needing to think about social justice issues outside of those which might impact the rural American. Reflecting on my own experience as I first began learning about social justice concepts, it was not fun to learn about my own privilege, others' oppression, and the ways in which the world benefits me over others. Although the desired result of social justice dialogue is an increased awareness & prompting toward further education and action, the immediate reaction for a person of privilege is often some form of denial, guilt, or even some angry rebuttal. In my efforts—admittedly feeble to this point—to discuss with family and friends outside Student Affairs the real issues faced by people of color, the trans community, or any other marginalized and under-represented groups, I have been met with sighs, disgruntlement, and even laughter that these issues are even valid. If I get this reaction from good people with whom I have a loving and long-standing relationship, how can we as social justice advocates bring meaningful dialogue outside our higher education bubble and into every-day conversation in business places, dinner tables, places of worship, and government/political conversations outside of our workday?

I'm not sure of a perfect answer here, but clearly there remains social justice work to be done. Never in my life have I felt a stronger need for grace and peace for each member of our world, country, and individual communities. At the same time, never has true unity and

harmony felt more impossible.

Social justice work is obviously an area of opportunity for all of us, but especially for myself and other white, cis-, straight, and [insert dominant identity here] folks like me. It is critically important for white dudes like me—who could easily take a passive way out of this work—to take tangible action by engaging in social justice dialogues. For what it's worth, I've found two particularly helpful nuggets to guide my own social justice journey. First, I am grateful for the grace, understanding, patience, and amnesty of the people who first introduced me to social justice and helped me begin to recognize my own privilege. I hope I can extend this to those I seek to engage in dialogue. Second, perhaps this is oversimplified, but for me, my social justice mission boils down to a core theological belief I try—though often fail—to live by: I will never encounter a human being on this earth who isn't precious in the eyes of God, no matter how mean, misguided, or maleficent I think they might be. Certainly others hold different beliefs about who "God" is and the nature of Her/His/It's character; however, whether you believe humanity was created by a god, a chance cosmic explosion, or a unicorn pigmy goat from Narnia, surely we all came from the same god, chance cosmic explosion, or unicorn pigmy goat, right? If the source of our being is the same, what more reason do we need to extend grace to one another?

Alrighty then. Modules completed, seminars attended, essay written, and all submitted... I'll take that certificate, please!

Run For Dreamers 3K



The University of Utah Division of Student Affairs is showing support for Dreamers and DACA students by organizing a 3K walk/run on campus. The funds raised will go to the Dreamer Support Fund, which provides scholarships and specialized mentoring and support, from college access to graduation and beyond.

The 3K, will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, at 10 a.m. and is open to anyone. The route circles the campus, beginning and ending at the Student Services Building. Registration begins at 9:15 a.m. Runners start at 10 a.m., and walkers start 10 minutes later. Registration donations are \$30 for community members and \$15 for students. For a \$5 donation, dogs can join. [Register online.](#)

SADC Certificate Reflection

I Heard Their Words

Submitted Anonymously

Never closed or unkind,
But my sight is wider.
Always trying not to be blind.
It seems a little brighter.

Never mind the preconceived.
Put aside your disdain.
There is so much that can be achieved
Let love for humanity rain.

The unknown is yet to be discovered,
People and their lives.
It can all be uncovered,
Not just be, but thrive.

There are no groups,
Just one person at a time.
We assemble our own coops.
Forget them and let's climb.

TED Talks



[Jackson Bird: How to talk \(and listen\) to transgender people](#)

Gender should be the least remarkable thing about someone, but transgender people are still too often misunderstood. To help those who are scared to ask questions or nervous about saying the wrong thing, Jackson Bird shares a few ways to think about trans issues. And in this funny, frank talk, he clears up a few misconceptions about pronouns, transitioning, bathrooms and more.



[Ashton Applewhite: Let's end ageism](#)

It's not the passage of time that makes it so hard to get older. It's ageism, a prejudice that pits us against our future selves -- and each other. Ashton Applewhite urges us to dismantle the dread and mobilize against the last socially acceptable prejudice. "Aging is not a problem to be fixed or a disease to be cured," she says. "It is a natural, powerful, lifelong process that unites us all."

[Explore more TED Talks on www.ted.com.](http://www.ted.com)

Upcoming Seminar



Impact of Japanese-American Internment

Kimiko Miyashima
Graduate Assistant, New Student and Family Programs

Date: Wednesday, January 3, 2018, 12-1:30pm

Location: Pano East, Union

[\[more information\]](#)

Recently On NPR



[The Book That Changed The Borders](#)

Gloria Anzaldúa never let borders stop her. In fact, she expanded our understanding of what physical and cultural borders meant. A literary queer Chicana scholar, poet and author, Anzaldúa wrote about her life growing up near the South Texas border, the beauty and perils it offered. Her best-known book, “Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza,” is a seminal text that explores the invisible borders between people.

[Listen to 1A on NPR>>](#)



[Blurred Lines](#)

Doug Fabrizio talks with journalist Vanessa Grigoriadis, whose controversial new book looks at sex and sexual violence on college campuses. Grigoriadis interviewed more than 100 students, as well as parents and college administrators, to try to understand how sex, power, and consent work on campus these days. The answer is really complicated with good and terrible sides to the story. There’s also a lot of what she calls the mushy middle. Her book is called Blurred Lines.

[Listen to RadioWest on NPR>>](#)

Upcoming Training Modules

Are you interested in learning about issues around diversity? Attend our training modules to learn more about issues of diversity in a safe environment, which will be essential to better serve our ever changing student population. Please note, the modules must be taken sequentially.

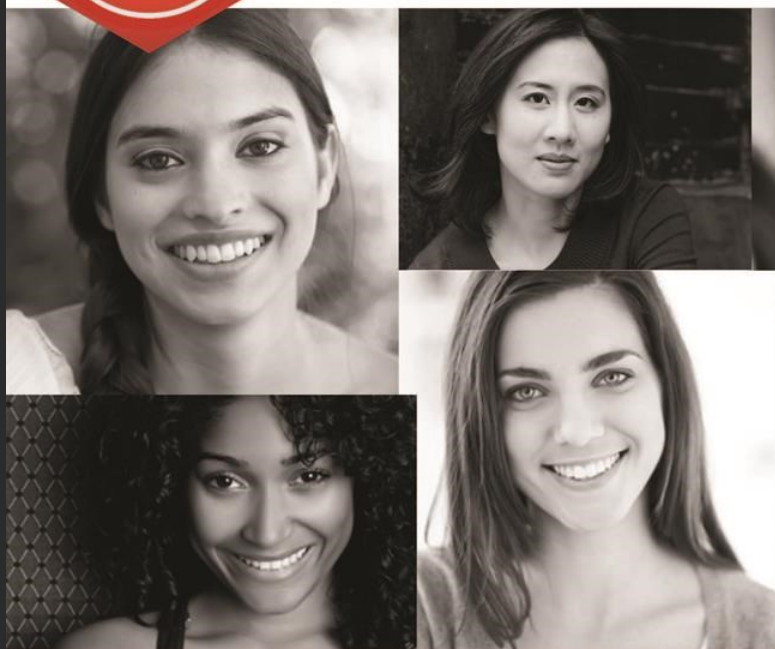
Date	Module	Location	Time
Tue., Feb. 6	Module 1 - Exploring Self & Others	Union Pano East	2-4:30pm
Thu., Feb. 15	Module 2 - Exploring Power, Bias, & Values	Union Parlor A	2-4:30pm
Thu., Feb. 22	Module 3 - Putting it all Together: Dialoging About Social Justice	Union Parlor A	2-4:30pm
Tue., May 1	Module 1 - Exploring Self & Others	Union Collegiate Room	2-4:30pm
Tue., May 15	Module 2 - Exploring Power, Bias, & Values	Union Parlor A	2-4:30pm
Tue., May 22	Module 3 - Putting it all Together: Dialoging About Social Justice	Union Parlor A	2-4:30pm

To register for these upcoming modules, please visit: <http://sadc.utah.edu/events/training.php>.



Women, Work and the Will to Lead

Please join us the 1st Wednesday of each month to gain insights and skills to help you grow professionally.



TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FALL 2017

Women & Networking

Sep 6th | 11am - 12pm | SSB 350

Shonda's Ted Talk on Saying Yes

Oct 4th | 11am - 12pm | SSB 350

Salary Negotiation

Nov 1st | 11am - 12pm | SSB 350

Mentorship & Leadership

Dec 6th | 11am - 12pm | SSB 350

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WOMEN'S ENROLLMENT INITIATIVE & THE CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Upcoming Events

GEM Series
DECOLONIZING
YOGA

DECEMBER 04 | 12-1PM | UNION PANORAMA EAST

December 4 @ 12-1pm
GEM Series: Decolonizing Yoga
Union Panorama East [[more info](#)]

SALT LAKE MEN'S CHOIR
DENNIS McCracken
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

'TIL THE SEASON COMES 'ROUND AGAIN

A HOLIDAY MUSIC CELEBRATION

Dec 8&9, 2017 @ 7:30^{PM}
Dec 10, 2017 @ 4:00^{PM}
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
SALT LAKE CITY, UT
GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS \$15

Dec. 8-9 @ 7:30-9pm & Dec. 10 @ 4-5:30pm
Salt Lake Men's Choir—36th Annual Christmas Concert, First Baptist Church [[more info](#)]

Dec 8 @ 5-7pm
Keep Families Together: Celebrate & Fundraise for Immigrant Lives, Frida Bistro (545 W 700 S) [[more info](#)]

FABULOUS FRIDAYS

LGBT RC
UNION RM 409

COME. CONSUME. COMMUNITY BUILT.

Every Friday @ 3-5pm
Fabulous Fridays, LGBT Resource Center Room 409

Shoshoni Language Project
Books Exhibit

Exhibit runs
October 27 - January 18, 2018
at the Marriott Library

GEM Series
Civic Engagement

JANUARY 22 | 12-1PM | UNION Rm. 311

January 22 @ 12-1pm
GEM Series: Civic Engagement
Union Room 311 [[more info](#)]



Debra Daniels (Co-chair), Women's Resource Center
Kari Ellingson (Co-chair), Student Development
Michael Bard, Registrar's Office
Gabriella Blanchard, LGBT Resource Center
Ella Butler, Career Services
Branden Dalley, Union Administration
Tim Davis, Housing & Residential Education
Kyle Ethelbah, TRIO Programs
Cairisti Flatley, Campus Recreation Services
Morgan Gallegos, University Guest House & Conference Center
Darrah Jones, Center for Student Wellness

Roberto Martinez, Counseling Center
Chuck Masoka, Assessment, Evaluation, & Research
Paul Morgan, Veteran Support Center
Belinda Otukolo Saltiban, Office of Inclusion Excellence
Natalie Pinkney, Office of Admissions
Matthew Plooster, Scholarships & Financial Aid
Nomani Satuala, Center for New Student & Family Programs
Laura Schwartz, Bennion Community Service Center
Ulysses Tongaonevai, Office of the Dean of Students
Melissa (Lissa) Wanserski, Center for Student Health