

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

The U of U Prison Education Project

By Erin Feeley, UPEP Undergraduate Honors Intern, and Doug Nagie, UPEP Undergraduate Volunteer

Inside Utah's State Prison in Draper, two new cohorts of students are now attending college, after an almost ten-year hiatus of postsecondary education offered inside. The University of Utah Prison Education Project (UPEP), rising from the long-term advocacy of the College of Education's Dr. Erin L. Castro and a Praxis Lab through the Honors College, began offering undergraduate coursework last fall inside two facilities at Draper. With support from colleges and units across campus, UPEP began out of the belief that higher education in prisons has the power to transform: the prison, the university, our broader Utah community, and ultimately, society.

UPEP offers upper division undergraduate courses like any others that would be found on the University of Utah's main campus. Perhaps the only difference is that it's harder for UPEP students because they make do with fewer resources and serious restrictions on time and access to quiet study space. Yet, with the help of our students, teachers, tutors, and over 30 staff who assist with everything from scheduling, graphic design, donations, and communications, UPEP is working to create a sustained culture of academic inquiry inside Draper Prison. This Project represents a coming together of many different people and institutions – including the University of Utah, Salt Lake Community College, and the Utah Department of Corrections, for



the common goal of providing quality face-to-face higher education to improve individuals' lives and communities' well-being.

The U.S. incarcerates more people, both per capita and overall, than any other country in the history of the world. Communities gripped by poverty, particularly communities of Color, are subject to disproportionate policing and are consequently overrepresented in jails and prisons. In Utah, a disproportionate number of individuals underrepresented in higher education reside in Utah state prisons. Using 2010 Census data, The Prison Policy Initiative estimated that 13,000 people were incarcerated in the state of Utah, with Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native populations overrepresented. Although the Hispanic population represents only 13% of individuals residing in the state of Utah, they comprised more than 24% of

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(Continued from page 1)

the prison population in 2010. There are also large numbers of low-income individuals, potential first generation college students, students with foster care histories, and military Veterans incarcerated in Draper prisons.

The goals of UPEP are drawn from the University of Utah: to promote inclusive excellence and engage students in meaningful and transformative learning experiences. For us, UPEP is about assisting our incarcerated students and our non-incarcerated volunteers to live lives of impact, both inside and outside of prison, and upon release. We believe that all of us – especially those of us who are not incarcerated or without incarceration histories, have much to learn from our incarcerated students and communities.

Spring 2018 marks our second semester of classes at Draper prison and a year since UPEP was founded. Reflecting on our time so far, there are several things we want to remember. First, thank you to all of our partners, donors, and volunteers. What we have accomplished in the past year would not have been possible without your fervent support. Second, thank you to our students who are the lifeblood and future of this Project. And finally, as we look to that future, we want to remember all the work to be done. In the next

year, we will solicit funds to allow UPEP students to earn academic credit for their work and secure computers that will support and enhance our students' learning (and save our students' hands from the pains of handwriting research papers!). In the next few months, we will continue to seek qualified students, staff, faculty, and community members who are eager to help with all things from admissions to book drives, to fundraising and research, to curriculum mapping and marketing, and other projects.

Finally, as we grow in capacity, we will broaden our focus. As we continue to expand access to quality higher education in Utah's prisons, we will simultaneously be working on our campus and in the larger community to sponsor dialogues about issues of incarceration in Utah and in the U.S. We are eager to connect with individuals and organizations who are committed to increasing access to quality higher education for incarcerated people. Please connect with us!

For more information, see: upeg.utah.edu

If you want to get involved or show your support, email us at upeg@utah.edu. We fully operate on donations.

Our students pay nothing to participate in UPEP. Please consider making a donation from our [Amazon Wish List](#) and sharing it with others.

Upcoming Event



WOMEN'S
LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT
University of Utah 2018

Power to Define
March 6th
1:30 pm - 5 pm
Union Ballroom

Register by Monday 2/26:
leadership.utah.edu/wls

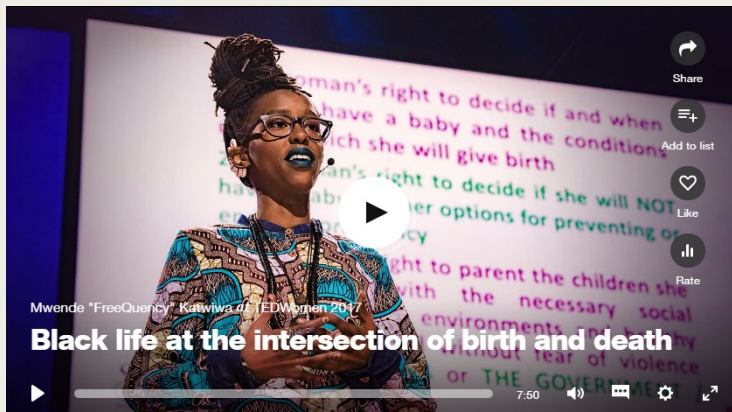
Upcoming Training Modules

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., 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>.

TED Talks



[Mwende "FreeQuency" Katwiwa: Black life at the intersection of birth and death](#)

"It is the artist's job to unearth stories that people try to bury with shovels of complacency and time," says poet and freedom fighter Mwende "FreeQuency" Katwiwa. Performing her poem "The Joys of Motherhood," Katwiwa explores the experience of Black mothers in America and discusses the impact of the Movement for Black Lives -- because, she says, it's impossible to separate the two.



[Nikki Webber Allen: Don't suffer from your depression in silence](#)

Having feelings isn't a sign of weakness -- they mean we're human, says producer and activist Nikki Webber Allen. Even after being diagnosed with anxiety and depression, Webber Allen felt too ashamed to tell anybody, keeping her condition a secret until a family tragedy revealed how others close to her were also suffering. In this important talk about mental health, she speaks openly about her struggle -- and why communities of color must undo the stigma that misreads depression as a weakness and keeps sufferers from getting help.

Reflection



By Kirsten Wang,
Admissions Office

From the first day of training to the last lecture I attended, I kept reflecting back on an experience I had in 2016 that made me feel... something. The something it made me feel couldn't quite be articulated until I was sitting in the first training dedicated to diversity:

I am an audience to injustice, prejudice, persecution. I cannot grasp it to the extent that others can. I cannot experience it to the extent that others can. I cannot empathize to the extent that others can. I am white. I am only an audience to injustice, prejudice, persecution. But going through this training, and reflecting on the experience I had in January of 2016 helped me feel something. It helped me feel as though I was part of something larger. I helped me feel as though I was part of something important, something necessary, something great. There is divisiveness. Divisiveness in the world, in our country, in our state, and on our campus. There exists a, them and there exists an, us and I feel it. Do you feel it? I am an audience to injustice, prejudice, persecution. But really, the thing about audiences is that they boo or they clap. They decide to keep watching or they walk out. They demand their money back and they tell their friends. They write letters and they spread the word. So many of us sit and watch for decades and don't clap or boo.

So many of us sit and watch for decades and don't walk out.

So many of us don't demand our change or tell our friends.

So many of us don't write letters or spread the word.

So many of us don't understand the power that an audience wields.

Last January I was so sick of being an, us that I did something because I simply had to get up and be part of something else. I had to put myself in it. I had to experience something else or I was going to burst.

I felt tentative and wary.

I felt fear, hopelessness, confusion, indignation, and exhaustion.

I am white.

Was I even allowed to feel these things?

Fear took over and I felt it.

Do you feel it?

What I feared was hate.

But I feared apathy even more.

I got up.

I left my seat in the audience and I decided to become part of the story.

I marched.

I marched with hundreds of others.

I marched to the steps of the Capitol.

I boomed.

I walked out.

I demanded my change and I told my friends.

I wrote letters and I spread the word.

After the marches and boos and letters and demands I realized something.

I realized that the audience was always part of the story.

I am white.

And I am part of a powerful story.

I realized I wasn't an, us anymore.

Through action I had become a, we.

We are all part of the story.

We are part of something important, something necessary, and something great.

We cannot be divided in the world, in our country, in our state, or on our campus.

We have to realize that there is no, us or, them.

We are all part of the story.

Do you feel it?

Upcoming Seminar



Racial Battle Fatigue

Dr. William Smith, Associate Professor, Ethnic Studies
Nicole Robinson & Estela Hernandez, Office of Equity and Diversity

Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 12-1:30pm

Location: Pano East, Union

[\[more information\]](#)

Recently On NPR



[Local News: A School Goes From Andrew Jackson To Mary Jackson](#)

Jackson Elementary School in Salt Lake City will keep its name, but change its namesake. It will no longer be named for President Andrew Jackson, but Mary Jackson, NASA's first black female engineer.

[Listen Online](#) | [Read More on SLTrib](#) | [Watch The Announcement](#)



[Through the Lens: The Rape of Recy Taylor](#)

The year was 1944. Walking home from church one night, Recy Taylor, a black woman, was raped by six white men. Taylor's story is the subject of a new documentary film that sheds light on a dark period in American history and the activism it spawned. [Listen Online>>](#)



[#MeToo's Next Step](#)

In just a few months, the #MeToo movement has affected nearly every major institution and industry. It has led to the resignations or firings of men accused of sexual harassment, assault or misconduct in entertainment, government, the military, the church and various other institutions and fields. And it has had effects outside of the United States. Women continue to speak up, and powerful men continue to face accusations. This has begun to spark a backlash, and a number of questions. [Listen Online>>](#)

Upcoming Events

March 2 @ 6-8:30pm

Out of State Film Screening

CTIHB 109 [\[more info\]](#)

2018 State of Utah Black Affairs Summit

Presence, Power, and Persistence



March 7 @ 8:30am-4pm

2018 State of Utah Black Affairs Summit

Eccles School of Business [\[more info\]](#)

March 7 @ 12-2pm

Bystander Intervention Training for Students Only

Union 311 [\[more info and registration\]](#)

Women, Work, & the Will to Lead

LEAN IN CIRCLE

Collaboration
NOT
Competition

March 7 | 11am -12pm | SSB 380

CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

WOMEN'S ENROLLMENT INITIATIVE
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

March 7 @ 11am-12pm

Lean In: Collaboration Not Competition

380 SSB [\[more info\]](#)

March 9 @ 11am-1pm

Unpacking the Backpacks We Carry: To Find the 21-Foot Ladder for Life's 20-Foot Borders

CTIHB Room 109 [\[more info\]](#)

March 14 @ 5:30-7pm

It's About Time: Culture & Temporalities in the Higher Ed Workplace, UMFA [\[more info & RSVP\]](#)



March 27 @ 11:30am-1:30pm

Bystander Intervention for Faculty/Staff Only

Sill Center [\[more info and registration\]](#)

March 29 @ 7-9pm

Young Migrants and Refugees in the US and Latin America, UMFA [\[more info\]](#)

March 29 @ 1-4pm

Open Gender & Sexuality Workshop

Annex 151—Red Butte Rm [\[more info & register\]](#)

March 30 @ 8:30am-4:30pm

Human Rights: Young Migrants and Refugees

Okazaki Meeting Rm (155) [\[info and registration\]](#)

March 31 @ 8am-4pm

3rd Annual Breaking The Pipeline Symposium

College of Law [\[more info and registration\]](#)

Every Friday @ 3-5pm

Fabulous Fridays, LGBT Resource Center Room 409



Debra Daniels (Co-chair), Women's Resource Center
Kari Ellingson (Co-chair), Student Development
Michael Bard, Registrar's Office
Gabiella 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