

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

I am a first gen, and I often feel like I don't belong.

By Kyle Ethelbah, Director, TRIO Programs

I am a first gen, and I often feel like I don't belong.

I've felt this way since my undergraduate days at the University of Arizona. I'd arrived to campus in the summer of 1993, overwhelmed with the idea of being a university student. I wasn't the first person in my family to set foot on a college campus, my mother and my uncle had started before I did. However, neither of them completed. Outside my family, I'd seen so many others try, but the rigors of the academy, combined with the stresses of reservation life had pulled them home. I started my undergraduate career with a healthy dose of excitement and an even healthier dose of fear.

I was born and raised on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation in central eastern Arizona, a member of the White Mountain Apache Tribe. For us education wasn't a new concept, but one that was riddled with complex notes of colonialism, self-acceptance, and a need to help our people. Indeed, education, as we had come to know it, was that of the boarding school era, where our people were beaten in order to cleanse them of their Indian identity. The doctrine of, "Kill the Indian, save the man" espoused by Captain Richard H. Pratt in the midst of the Indian wars, was the education that we knew in our bones, and though we never spoke of it, it was the darkness, the unknown, of which we were very much afraid.

On this foundation, I sought to meet my destiny, whatever that was to be. I had hoped that it would be education that helped me to break free from the symptoms of poverty that my family knew so well. Alcoholism, domestic violence, suicide, child abuse, and the myriad of other symptoms that I was afraid to return to, were in equal parts the boogey man I was afraid to return to, and the cheerleader that pushed me to continue to want to complete post-secondary education.



I can't say that my drive was the only thing that kept me going. Like a sports car, drive can take you from zero to sixty very quickly, but without a direction and guidance, drive could very well lead you to a crushing wall, or nowhere at all. During high school, I was part of the TRIO - Upward Bound program, which put me on a path to education despite its complex standing in my people's history. I knew to apply for financial aid, and scholarships because Upward Bound made me complete these pieces. I started at the U of A in a summer bridge program because of my early application and financial aid package. In that summer program, I was introduced to the TRIO-Student Support Services (SSS) Program. Not knowing the complexities and bureaucracy of higher education, I applied to the SSS program. I had no idea

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

I had just signed on my own pit and navigation crew for that drive I held and didn't know what to do with.

It was here that I found my home. SSS provided many services, from the tutoring that helped me pass my dreaded college algebra course to career exploration which helped me change my major three times. But, what SSS gave me that was invaluable, was a place - a space to be who I was and be ok with that. It gave me the opportunity to grow and learn without fear of failure. I can't tell you any big theories I learned in my undergraduate courses, nor could I participate in a game show to highlight the knowledge I gained as a college student. But, I daily come back to the lessons I learned at the hands of the SSS Staff. I learned that the trauma I held on to so strongly was something I needed to address. I learned that I had much to offer and that I needed to share this with the world. I applied for my first on campus job because my SSS advisor pushed me to do so. Over time, I found a place where I belonged on campus. I no longer felt that I was the odd man out. When the time came for me to accept myself with all my identities, including being gay, it was my TRIO family that I told. I recall sitting for a couple of hours processing through the feelings I had, while the coordinator of the program sat and listened and allowed me to be who I was. I look back on that now, thinking of the pile of work that often takes me away from direct student interaction, and am so grateful to that staff member who let me interfere with her work day.

Fast forward 25 years, and I now oversee two TRIO programs where we are tasked with a monumental job – to eliminate poverty through post-secondary education. This is the

mission of TRIO as it was founded through the War on Poverty, under the Johnson Administration in 1964. I didn't know this while I was a participant. I only knew that these programs helped me not only to be a college student, but also to self-actualize and become who I am today. These programs are just as important today as they were in 1964, and 1993 when I started on this path.

I often find myself feeling like I don't belong. However, today it's because I find myself in new situations where education has afforded me a place at the table. I navigate conversations with professionals where I often feel less than because of my upbringing. I doubt my reasons for being in those conversations and wonder if I'm the right person to be in those spaces. I doubt. I doubt constantly. But, one thing that has changed in that narrative, is that I am reminded of the people who believed in me and pushed me to move forward. I remember that all is right in the world and it is because I believe in myself today. This would not have happened without the help of my own pit and navigation crew – my TRIO family.

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Nationally, the TRIO SSS is celebrating its 50th birthday. On the University of Utah campus, 2018 marks the fortieth year that the TRIO Student Support Services Program has been on campus. We will be celebrating this birthday on November 1, 2018 at 12:30pm in the Spencer Fox Eccles Business Building Auditorium. Your attendance at this celebration is very much appreciated. A listing of the weeklong activities accompanying this celebration can be found at the following website: <https://ugs.utah.edu/firstgen/index.php>.

Recently On NPR



[The Realities of Diversity: A Conversation With Jelani Cobb](#)

New Yorker staff writer Jelani Cobb writes about the problems we have in this country with race and injustice. He says that race may just be a mythology, but it's also a useful way of looking at our checkered history, and talking about it isn't easy.

[Listen Online>>](#)

EMBODY PRIDE

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OCTOBER 1-6, 2018



PRIDE WEEK
AT THE **U**

LGBT.UTAH.EDU

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
Mon., Oct. 8	Module 1 - Exploring Self & Others	Union Parlor A	9-11am
Wed., Oct. 10	Module 2 - Exploring Power, Bias, & Values	Union Den	9-11am
Fri., Oct. 12	Module 3 - Putting it all Together: Dialoging About Social Justice	Union Den	9-11am

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

TED Talks



"Wild Women"

With lightning on her tongue, Sunni Patterson performs her powerful poem, "Wild Women," accompanied by the entrancing moves of dancer Chanice Holmes.



How to get serious about diversity and inclusion in the workplace

Imagine a workplace where people of all colors and races are able to climb every rung of the corporate ladder -- and where the lessons we learn about diversity at work actually transform the things we do, think and say outside the office. How do we get there? In this candid talk, inclusion advocate Janet Stovall shares a three-part action plan for creating workplaces where people feel safe and expected to be their unassimilated, authentic selves.

Upcoming Events

Oct 2 @ 12-1pm

Pizza & Politics

Hinckley Caucus Room (GC 2018) [[more info](#)]

Oct 2 @ 12:30-2pm

Avoid Burn-Out & Practice Self-Care

Union Room 293 [[more info](#)]

Oct 2 @ 5-8pm

ACME Session

Utah Pride Center [[more info](#)]



Oct 3 @ 11am-12pm

Lean In: Speaking Truth to Power

380 SSB [[more info](#)]



Oct 3 @ 12-1:30pm

Sonya R. Taylor

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

Oct 4 @ 12-2pm

Talia Keys & The Love

Famers Market West of the Union [[more info](#)]

Oct 5 @ 4-7:30pm

Quiet Heroes Screening

Marriott Library Gould Auditorium [[more info](#)]

Oct 17 @ 5:30pm Reception & 7pm Q&A

The Realities of Diversity: A Conversation with Maria Hinojosa,

S.J. Quinney College of Law [[more info](#)]

Upcoming Seminar

The Changing Demographics of Utah

Pam Perlich, Ph.D.

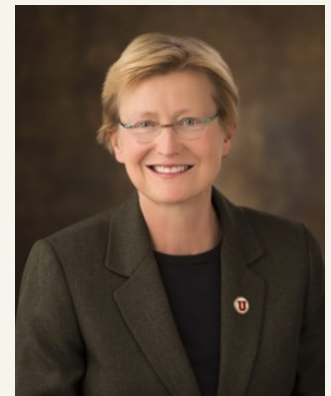
Date: Wednesday,

October 17, 2018

Time: 12-1:30pm

Location: Pano East,
Union

[[more information](#)]



Until Dec 31

Utah Women in Medicine Exhibit

Eccles Health Sciences Library [[more info](#)]

Every Friday @ 3-5pm

Fabulous Fridays, LGBT Resource Center Room 409

Find More Events:

- <http://diversity.utah.edu/events/>
- <https://www.utah.edu/events/>



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
Jenna Matsumura, Women's Enrollment Initiative
Branden Dalley, Union Administration
Tim Davis, Housing & Residential Education
Jenni Schriener, Housing & Residential Education
Kyle Ethelbah, TRIO Programs
Ryan Kirchner, Campus Recreation Services
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
BobbiJo Kanter, Bennion Community Service Center
Madalena McNeil, Office of Admissions
Matthew Plooster, Scholarships & Financial Aid
Neelam Chand, Office of Equity & Diversity
Nomani Satuala, Center for New Student & Family Programs
Jess Turuc, Fraternity & Sorority Life
Ulysses Tongaonevai, Office of the Dean of Students
Olivia Harker, Student Development (Committee Support)

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