

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

Towards 5.16, Engaging Minority Groups in Climbing

By Ryan Kirchner,
 Manager,
 Campus Recreation



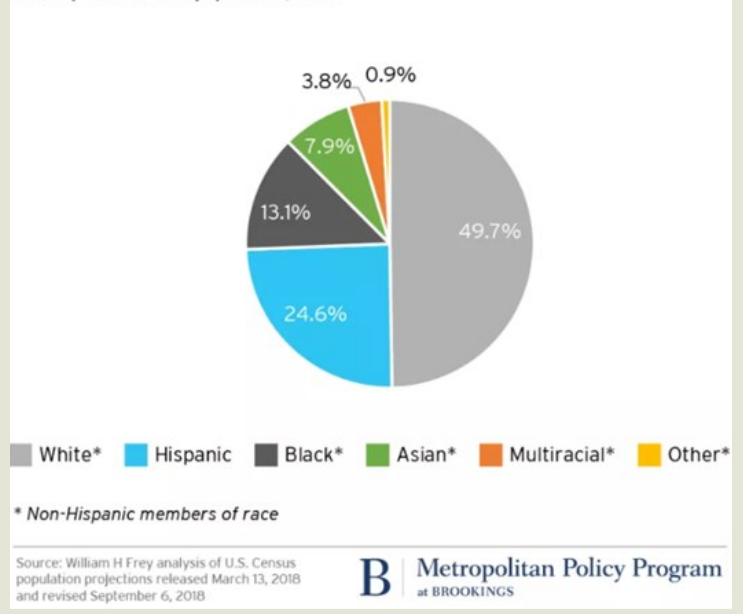
This year, I attended the Climbing Wall Association Summit in Loveland, Colorado. The conference had sessions ranging from route setting, gym management, gear demos, and climbing coaching. All had pretty standard names that perfectly described what you were going to see, but one title caught my eye. Towards 5.16, Engaging Minority Groups in Climbing by Ryan Gagnon, Ph.D. from Clemson University. 5.16 is a climbing rating that no one has ever climbed before. How is engaging minority groups going to help make it happen? The presentation outlined the problem today with the lack of underserved/underrepresented groups in climbing, why it is important to engage these groups, and Ryan shared his experience with the RISE climbing program in Atlanta.

Underserved/underrepresented was defined as those who don't participate or limit participation due to cultural, structural, logistical, physical, intrapersonal, and/or interpersonal constraining. Climbing is a foreign sport to the greater population, especially in our inner cities where minorities can be the majority. There are barriers in place that seem daunting to overcome for underrepresented groups due to lack of knowledge, resources, or acceptance of their peers. By engaging minority groups, we can help break down these barriers to get more individuals climbing. For example, an inner city kid might think that he or she will never rock climb because they don't live close to the mountains and don't know that climbing gyms have become more prevalent. Increasing one's knowledge of the accessibility of climbing gyms could be the barrier that needs

to be broken down to for this individual to start climbing. Competitive climbing is very financially accessible compared to other competitive sports. All one needs to start is a climbing harness, shoes, and a chalk bag. Compared to football or baseball equipment, the startup cost is low. The competitions even are reasonable when compared to the bigger more popular sport tournaments. But why do we need to engage minority groups in climbing?

"The next winner of Wimbledon is a kid in the inner city who has never held a racquet"-McEnroe? Ryan wasn't sure of the exact origin of the quote, but the message was sent. By engaging groups that are underrepresented, it will advance the sport by reaching a wider pool of competitors advancing the competition. He used the example of Venus and Serena Williams growing up in Compton and developing into world class tennis players. Rock climbing has evolved quite a bit in the last 70 years. In 1949, 5.10 was impossible. In 1993, free climbing El Cap was impossible (Lynn Hill the first person, male or female, to free climb El Cap), and 5.15 was impossible until recently, so why not 5.16!

Racial profile of U.S. population, 2045



(Continued from page 1)

“It’s also a business problem”, Ryan said. In 2030, more non-white youth athletes will enter the sports pool. Where will they go? What role models, coaches, staff, and friends will they have? The racial profile of U.S. population in 2045 shows that non-white will be a majority. The 50.3% effect won’t be sudden, but it will affect the bottom line. Growth in climbing will not continue without opening up new markets. The infrastructure is in place. Climbing gyms have brought the outdoors in with the boom of new gyms around the country over the last several years. These gyms have youth programs, coaches, and role models ready for these individuals. We just need to get them there. We shouldn’t limit the benefits of climbing to those lucky enough to engage. Climbing differs from other sports, it’s not “us” against each other it’s “us” against the wall. It’s literal problem solving, giving/receiving feedback, inherently inclusive (grades from 5.5 -5.12 to meet all climbers needs), it doesn’t create “grit” it reveals “it”, and climbing facilitates trust/communication.

Ryan went on to talk about the RISE program, a ten-week

pilot program developed to understand the factors that promotes participation of underrepresented youth within an emerging sport, competition climbing. The program consisted of 50 male adolescents (ages 11-18) who would not be able to participate in a sport program due to financial and logistical barriers in Atlanta. The RISE program funding came from the Clemson PRTM program and other various partners. Ryan goes into detail about setting up the program, challenges the program faced, and some positive outcomes from the program. The RISE program will quadruple the number of African American USA Climbing members as a direct result. The youth that participated also reported meaningful positive growth in academic performance, problem solving, critical thinking, trust, and peer communication. Ryan went on to say that with the future demographic of our racial population and the steady growth climbing has seen over the past few years, climbing gyms need to start running programs like RISE. It’s not going to happen overnight, but it starts with people engaging in these programs and help get the underrepresent population in your communities to the gym.

Recently On NPR



[The Realities of Diversity: A Conversation With Maria Hinojosa](#)

We wrap up the Realities of Diversity series with Latina journalist Maria Hinojosa. She joined us to discuss what she’s learned about racism and how to have difficult conversations about race.

[Listen Online>>](#)

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[Preserving Stories Of Holocaust Survivors](#)

Eighty years later, anti-Semitic actions are on the rise in the United States. A shooting at a Pittsburgh synagogue in late October was the most violent incident, but cemeteries have been vandalized, and swastikas painted on community centers. Slurs and conspiratorial whispers spread online. Sometimes this rhetoric intersects with the mainstream in parts of American politics.

A recent survey found that “many adults lack basic knowledge” of the Holocaust. The youngest survivors are now in their 70s. As the years since the atrocities of that time pass, and as firsthand survivors grow older, how can the world keep remembering what must never be forgotten?

[Listen Online>>](#)

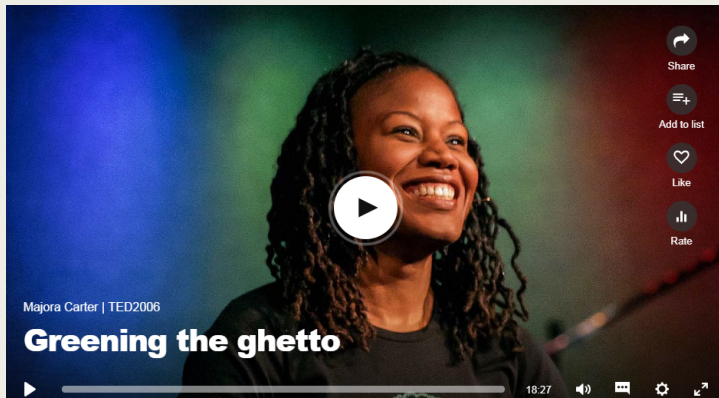
Upcoming Training Modules

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., Jan. 8	Module 1 - Exploring Self & Others	Union Pano East	1-3pm
Tue., Jan. 22	Module 2 - Exploring Power, Bias, & Values	Union Pano East	1-3pm
Tue., Jan. 29	Module 3 - Putting it all Together: Dialoging About Social Justice	Union Pano East	1-3pm

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

TED Talks



[Greening the ghetto](#)

In an emotionally charged talk, MacArthur-winning activist Majora Carter details her fight for environmental justice in the South Bronx -- and shows how minority neighborhoods suffer most from flawed urban policy.



[What we're missing in the debate about immigration](#)

Between 2008 and 2016, the United States deported more than three million people. What happens to those left behind? Journalist Duarte Geraldino picks up the story of deportation where the state leaves off. Learn more about the wider impact of forced removal as Geraldino explains how the sudden absence of a mother, a local business owner or a high school student ripples outward and wreaks havoc on the relationships that hold our communities together.

Upcoming Events



December 5 @ 11am-12pm

Lean In: Confident Communication

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



December 5 @ 12-1pm

Issues & Action Forum: Isolation, Mental Health & the Power of Community, Union Rm 101 [\[more info\]](#)

Until Dec 31

Utah Women in Medicine Exhibit

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

First and Third Tuesdays of Each Month

Video Game Free-For-All

LGBT Resource Center Room 409 [\[more info\]](#)

Mondays 3-4pm

LGBTQ+ Support & Empowerment Group

SSB Room 344 [\[more info and RSVP info\]](#)



Until December 9th

Marisa Morán Jahn: MIRROR | MASK

Utah Museum of Fine Arts [\[more info\]](#)

Upcoming Seminar

**Trans Students
on Campus**

Presenter:

Kari Dockendorff

Doctoral Student

Educational Leadership and Policy



Date: Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Time: 12-1:30pm

Location: Pano East, Union

[\[more information\]](#)

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
Neelam Chand, Office of Equity & Diversity
Branden Dalley, Union Administration
Tim Davis, Housing & Residential Education
Elizabeth Duszac, Assessment, Evaluation, & Research
Kyle Ethelbah, TRIO Programs
Carmen Gold-Johnson, Career & Professional Development
Charity Harding, Disability & Access
Darrah Jones, Center for Student Wellness

BobbiJo Kanter, Bennion Community Service Center
Ryan Kirchner, Campus Recreation Services
Roberto Martinez, Counseling Center
Jenna Matsumura, Women's Enrollment Initiative
Paul Morgan, Veteran Support Center
Madalena McNeil, Office of Admissions
Matthew Plooster, Scholarships & Financial Aid
Nomani Satuala, Center for New Student & Family Programs
Jenni Schreiner, Housing & Residential Education
Ulysses Tongaonevai, Office of the Dean of Students
Jess Turuc, Fraternity & Sorority Life
Olivia Harker, Student Development (Committee Support)

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University of Utah • Student Affairs Diversity Council • michael bard • michael.bard@utah.edu