The Second Annual Diversity Celebration and Fundraising Event was held at Sandia Casino on March 25th. “This year’s event was just as inspiring and even more spectacular than the first event,” states Dr. De Leon. The silent auction was one of the highlights of the evening with individuals trying to outbid each other on a number of beautiful items and gift certificates for various businesses. Silent auction proceeds were doubled from last year’s event. The keynote speaker, Lalo Alcaraz, syndicated cartoonist, entertained everyone with his wit and political satire. He addressed Latino issues, but his comments were relevant to other groups in New Mexico as well. The evening culminated with the awarding of the Presidential Luminaria Awards with a special honoring of faculty recipient Professor Margaret Montoya. Professor Montoya has had an extensive career at UNM and her commitment to diversity and equity has never waivered during those years. Dr. De Leon states that it was particularly special to honor Margaret Montoya because of her dedication to diversity that has lit the way for many others and because she will retire at the end of the year. Professor Montoya received a standing ovation. The staff recipient was Dr. George Williams. Dr. Williams was also the master of ceremony for the evening’s event. The student award went to Stephanie Tran and PNMGC for their work in getting students involved and for their work in creating critical dialogue. The community award acknowledged the hard work of Somos Un Pueblo in their struggles to address the rights of immigrants in New Mexico.

NADOHE Conference

Dr. De Leon attended the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE) Conference in Washington, D.C. on March 7-9, 2011. This conference is held consecutively with the American Council of Education Conference that brings higher education leaders from the United States and other countries together to discuss critical issues in higher education.

The NADOHE Conference is attended by Chief Diversity Officers from throughout the United States. As a member of the Board of Directors for NADOHE, Dr. De Leon, attended the annual board meeting. Dr. Lani Guinier, J.D. from Harvard University, spoke to the Board to inspire them to take on critical issues impacting the education of underrepresented students nationally. She later provided the opening keynote.
address for the conference titled “Rethinking Race and Class in Service of a New Understanding of Merit.” Dr. De Leon moderated the session, “The UC Berkeley Initiative for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: Placing Diversity in the Center of the Academic Mission.” Other sessions included: “The Path to Effective Accountability: Texas A&M,” “Advancing Research in Diversity in Higher Education,” “The Things that Keep Me Up at Night,” “Outside the Wall: CDO Engagement with the Surrounding Community,” and “The First Amendment and Respectful Speech: When the Two Collide.”

Dr. De Leon states that the NADOHE Conference is the only conference that is strictly dedicated to the topics that are relevant to Chief Diversity Officers. “It is a conference where we can learn from each other, share our challenges and get support to continue to address those challenges.”

The role of Chief Diversity Officers is relatively new in institutions of higher education. These new positions became apparent approximately 10 years ago and as the demographics in institutions of higher education continue to demonstrate higher numbers of traditionally underrepresented students, the role of the CDO has become increasingly important. “Several court cases, legislation, federal requirements and the focus on diversity by accreditation agencies have also influenced the need for an individual within an institution of higher education who can address diversity, inclusion, equity and build the foundation for inclusive excellence,” states Dr. De Leon.
Community members, business leaders and the University of New Mexico community came together on Friday, March 25th for the Office for Equity and Inclusion’s 2nd Annual Presidential Luminaria Awards and Diversity Celebration at Sandia Resort and Casino.

The Luminaria Awards recognize individuals and organizations who have “Lit the way for diversity” at the UNM campus. The university has many examples of work that advances diversity and creates an inclusive environment. Many programs focus on the needs of the students served, initiatives which support the diverse faculty and students, special projects that focus on increasing the number of underrepresented students in specific disciplines, research initiatives that improve conditions for diverse communities or involve research opportunities that develop scholars, scientists and researchers out of underrepresented students who are first generation college students.

Recipients of the 2011 Luminaria Awards include:

- Faculty: Dr. Margaret E. Montoya, UNM School of Law
- Staff: George Williams, Jr., Accessibility Resource Center
- Student: Stephanie Tran, Medical student
- Student Organization: The Project for New Mexico Graduates of Color (PNMGC)
- Community Organization: Somos Un Pueblo Unido

“The recipients of the Presidential Luminaria Award represent examples of the great work that is being done across campus by faculty, staff, students, student organizations and community organizations,” said Dr. Jozi De Leon, VP for Equity and Inclusion. “Their work to make this university better by addressing diversity, equity, inclusion or social justice will add to other efforts to make our campus climate more accepting and nurturing of all people.”

The event also featured Lalo Alcaraz as Keynote Speaker. Alcaraz’s comic strip, La Cucaracha is featured in 75 major newspapers across the country.

If you’d like more information about the Luminaria Awards, please contact Lorena Blanco-Silva at 505-277-1481 or e-mail at lbianco@unm.edu.

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**12th Annual White Privilege Conference**

Jordon Johnson, Project Assistant

I will be attending the 12th Annual White Privilege Conference (WPC) in Minnesota this year. It will be my 5th year of attending the conference to facilitate workshops, hear speakers from around the world, and connect with people committed to a movement that examines challenging concepts of privilege and oppression.

The White Privilege Conference provides a challenging, collaborative and comprehensive experience. It strives to empower and equip individuals to work for equity and justice through self and social transformation.

WPC is a conference that offers solutions and team building strategies to work toward a more equitable world. It is designed to invite diverse perspectives to look at issues of privilege including race, sexuality, gender, class, and many more.

WPC will be coming to Albuquerque in March 2012. I am looking forward to returning from Minnesota to continue our planning process for the conference being in New Mexico. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact me at jordon@unm.edu.

To learn more about the conference and see what workshops are available, please visit: http://www.whiteprivilegeconference.com

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**Students for Diversity**

Christopher Ramirez, Project Assistant

Students for Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Social Justice has organized to support the preservation of the UNM Office for Equity and Inclusion (OEI). To begin with, the coalition connected with students, student clubs, faculty, staff and community organizers.

Students for Diversity has also organized with Graduate Employees Together (GET) and Students for Accountability on Campus (SFAC) to share the message of support for OEI, affordable tuition and fees (little to no increase) and cost containment (especially with executive salaries). In addition, students have met with President Schmidly as well as Regents Fortner and Hosmer. Students for Diversity also organized two successful online petitions in addition to speaking out at the UNM Budget Summit and the Apr 12 Board of Regents Meeting. Student voice is critical to campus decision-making and shared governance, thanks again to everyone who participated and supported the efforts to move our campus and diversity, inclusion, equity and social justice forward at UNM!
UNM Black Student Campus Climate Survey
Dr. Belinda Deneen Wallace

In March 2011, the Office for Equity and Inclusion conducted the “University of New Mexico’s Black Student Campus Climate Survey.” This survey’s primary purpose is to provide baseline information regarding areas of improvement in building a positive campus climate for UNM’s Black Students (i.e. African American, Afro-Hispanic, Afro-Caribbean, African and others who identify as a person of African descent). The key metrics for the Black Student Campus Climate Survey include:

- Comfort
- Inclusiveness
- Perceptions
- Challenges
- Success
- Access
- Needs

The University of New Mexico has received valid criticism regarding its treatment of its black students. The Survey is in no way intended as an appeasement to undergraduate and graduate students’ concerns. Instead, The Office for Equity and Inclusion is dedicated to tangible actions that will result in better services; better retention and graduation rates; better access to resources and financial aid; and a more holistic college experience for UNM’s Black students.

Diversity Showcase Week
Lorena Blanco-Silva

The Office for Equity and Inclusion, along with various university and community partners, held Diversity Showcase Week March 21-25, 2011. Events included offerings for faculty, staff and students around diversity. Featured events include:

- Film: A Look Inside SB 1070 - The film follows a national student delegation as it toured Arizona in August of 2010 – amidst the passage of controversial law SB 1070. Nine students from Washington D.C., New York, Chicago and Colorado comprised the delegation, which set out to gain a better understanding of the debate over SB 1070.

- My Black Is...” - This program was the third event in a series of celebrations honoring black female students, faculty and staff at UNM during Women’s History Month. African American female faculty (professors, instructors, lectures and teaching assistants) participated in a luncheon that focused on how to succeed at the University of New Mexico sponsored by 5 Black Chicks.

- Teaching Across Student Differences - Highly diverse student enrollments make teaching toward many identities, backgrounds, and circumstances a critical reality. Today’s students include those from various cultural backgrounds, students with children, students from low-income circumstances, students with learning and/or physical disabilities, older students, recent immigrants, and first generation students. This interactive session was designed to assist faculty to develop techniques for creating classroom climate and pedagogy conducive to all students.

- Scholars in Action (SA10^3) - This event was designed to recognize faculty who are participating in innovative scholarship in teaching/research/service with communities of color with ten scholars presenting ten ideas in ten minutes.

- The Lady, The Legacy, The Lesson: A Tribute to Audre Lorde - This program began with a screening of the short film "The Body of a Poet: A Tribute to Audre Lorde," which centers on the efforts of a diverse group of young women to create a fitting tribute to one of the most influential Black women in American history. Following the screening, a panel consisting of black women discussed the impact Lorde’s work has had on their lives, careers and aspirations.

- Disability Awareness Day - ASE focused on raising the campus community’s awareness—students, faculty, and staff alike—around accessibility, transportation and other issues facing the disabled populace. The day aimed to educate students with disabilities about available resources at UNM, as well as in the broader Albuquerque community.

There was an obstacle course for blindfolded people, “wheel chair challenge courses” (students and staff members ride in a wheelchair around campus), and a wheelchair basketball challenge with the Kings Wheel Chair Basketball Team. These events were fun, and gave people a sense of what it is like to be physically challenged.

Diversity Showcase Week ended with the 2nd Annual Luminaria Awards and Diversity Celebration Dinner with nationally syndicated cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz at Sandia Resort and Casino. Lalo Alcaraz is the creator of the nationally syndicated and politically charged Latino comic strip La Cucaracha, featured daily in the Los Angeles Times, Denver Post, Arizona Republic, Houston Chronicle, Chicago Sun-Times, San Diego Tribune, and 75 other major newspapers.
Associated Students for Empowerment (ASE)

Guida Leicester

The theme this year has been COLLABORATION. Our group participated in Diversity Showcase Week, sponsored by the Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) and many other UNM student organizations. Special thanks to Dr. Jozi De Leon and the OEI Program Assistants and staff for including ASE in this week-long event! This year, ASE has made many excellent contacts with community-wide organizations, and we look forward to building stronger ties with everyone next year. The next ASE general meeting is this Friday, April 8, at noon, in room 1065, in the SUB Basement. For more information, please call 246-2231. Many have expressed interest in attending ASE meetings, but cannot make this time. Our members are flexible, we plan to be around this summer, and we hope to connect with others during the summer.

Islamic Awareness Week

Danya Mustafa

The Muslim Student Association’s (MSA) annual Islamic Awareness week was a success this year. We answered questions about Islam to UNM students who came to the tent interested in what Islam is all about. Many of the questions that were asked, were questions about the Hijab, the scarf many Muslim women wear on their head, and questions about what Muslims generally believe in. We set out free Quran’s for people to take, as well as free literature about what Islam is all about.

At the end of the week, we had a huge event that over 130 people attended, called "Jesus in Islam" with Imam Sha’fi. Imam Sha’fi talked about why Jesus plays such a significant role in Islam, and he also cleared the stereotype that Muslims are all "extremists". He told the attendees that he is speaking just to make a case for the Muslims, not to offend any other religion. The event was a huge success, and we’re hoping next semester we will have many events just like it.

On the Friday of Islamic Awareness week, we invite the UNM community to the Islamic Center of New Mexico. Friday is the holy day for Muslims, and that is the day we all gather to the Mosque and listen to the sermon of the Imam, as well as pray in unison with our other Muslim brothers and sisters.

The Sheryl Williams Stapleton Student Success Program

Dr. Belinda Deneen Wallace

This summer—June 2011—The Office for Equity and Inclusion will co-sponsor the Africana Studies Program’s Sheryl Williams Stapleton Student Success Program. The Sheryl Williams Stapleton Student Success Program is dedicated to bridging the achievement gap and preparing New Mexico’s High School students for the rigors of higher education and success in life. Conducted through the Africana Studies Program, the Student Success Program is committed to exposing students to the field of Africana Studies through various academic courses, intellectual programs, cultural events, workshops, fieldtrips and speaker series. The program is also dedicated to helping students improve academically and offers courses in Math, English and Communications. This summer’s program, called “Summer Scholars,” will focus on teaching students how to conduct college-level research, complete a research project and present said project. The program is 100% Free of Charge and open to all New Mexico High School students (entering grade 9th – 12th). For more information regarding Africana Studies’ Sheryl Williams Stapleton Student Success Program, please visit their website at:

http://unm.edu/~afamstds/sStudentSuccess.htm

Have News or Events to share? Email us!
diverse@unm.edu

Upcoming Events

Congratulations Graduates! ~

• May 6, 2011
  Raza Graduation
  UNM SUB Ballrooms

• May 11, 2011
  Rainbow Graduation

• May 12, 2011
  American Indian Graduation Program
  UNM SUB Ballrooms B&C

• May 14, 2011
  Spring Commencement
  University Arena (The Pit)

More events on our Calendar @
http://diverse.unm.edu