Director's Message

By Michiko Nakashima-Lizarazo
Director

Welcome back to an amazingly spectacular Fall semester!

This publication would not be possible without the talented students of the CME and CME Programs Specialist, Areli Thomas, and Data Analyst, James "Riley" Painter. Thank you for making this newsletter a possibility.

In the Fall of 2013, the Underrepresented Student Retention Initiative was introduced by the Division of Student Affairs to identify interventions to increase the retention of underrepresented students. As a result, the Access and Diversity unit was created and is led by Executive Director, Dr. Enrique Romo. The areas under Access and Diversity are the following: Diversity and Inclusive Programs, LGBT Resource Center, Access and Outreach, Transition Program, and Center for Multicultural Excellence.

Please help me welcome the staff members for the Center for Multicultural Excellence: Olga Antonio (Mentor Coordinator), Monica Rodriguez Mesa (Counselor/Retention Specialist), Eveni Tafiti (Counselor/Retention Specialist), Areli Thomas (Programs Specialist), Tashina Barber (Native American Advisor, Student Specialist) and James "Riley" Painter (Data Analyst), and Coleen Sheehan (Administrative Assistant).

New Peer Mentor Program At CME

By Olga G. Antonio
Mentor Coordinator | olgaantonio@weber.edu

Greetings, CME Family!
I am so honored to be the new Mentor Coordinator and get to work with wonderful Peer Mentors and Mentees, so let me tell you about this new program at the CME!

Why?
At the Center for Multicultural Excellence, we care about your academic and personal success. This is why the new Peer Mentor Program focuses not only on helping you navigate resources and answering your questions, but also on building relationships and building your skills for the future. Research tells us these are critical factors for student success!

Hispanic Heritage Month

By JORDAN WINDER
Peer Mentor | jordanwinder@weber.edu

Hispanic Heritage Month is going on right now! Hispanic Heritage Month was first started in 1968 by President Johnson as a weeklong celebration of the culture, history, and other contributions from America’s citizens who came from Latin American countries. The week was expanded into a month in 1988 by Ronald Reagan, which is also the year it was officially made into a law. Hispanic Heritage Month runs from September 15th until October 15th. This day was chosen to start because it is the Independence Day for a few Latin American Countries. Other Latin American countries independence days are also during this time, including Mexico on September 16th and Chile on September 18th (Library of Congress, 2015).

In celebration of this month, everyone is invited to participate in the activities being held here at Weber State University! There is a very exciting and interesting event this month organized by the Center for Multicultural Excellence, the Hispanic Area Council and other collaborating partners. They will be setting up a José Guadalupe Posada Art Exhibit in the Shepherd Union Building gallery and bridge starting October 2nd until November 3rd.

This exhibit will last until November 2nd which will be the Day of the Dead Celebration from 6 pm until 8 pm in the Shepherd Union Building. For more information about these activities or how to volunteer, please call or stop by the Center for Multicultural Excellence in the Student Services building Suite 150.

Some activities that have passed already included “Honoring Our Heritage, Building Our Future” and “Underwater Dreams Film Discussion.”
New Peer Mentor Program at CME

How does it work?

Those who participate in the Peer Mentor Program are assigned a Peer Mentor. Your Peer Mentor will support you in navigating campus resources, learning about important timelines, building meaningful relationships with peers, learning about yourself and others, and taking advantage of opportunities to develop skills through workshops, training and/or conference attendance. Peer Mentors have started meeting with their Mentees to get to know them and set goals for the semester/year. Soon we will be talking about time management and defining success. We will also have a fun day at the WSU Challenge Course through the Outdoor Program on October 2nd from 6 - 8 PM.

We want this program to be a helpful, meaningful and fun opportunity for all who wish to take advantage of it!

Want to get involved?

Choosing to be a Mentee is a great step towards ensuring your success. You don’t have to be a new student to get a mentor, anyone can benefit from having an extra person cheering you on! Beginning NOW you can join the Peer Mentor Program at the Center for Multicultural Excellence!

E-mail me at olgaantonio@weber.edu, call 801-626-7332 or visit Union Building 232D (Center for Diversity and Unity) to request a Peer Mentor and you will be assigned a dedicated peer to support you throughout the year!

I’m really excited about this program and the benefits it has for participants! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me - I’d love to meet you!!

Dr. Forrest C. Crawford Distinguished Stewardship Award (an award to honor Dr. Crawford and his outstanding accomplishments- awarded annually to a WSU Graduate student who has promoted multiculturalism and made exceptional contributions to the university, their profession, or the public.)

➢ Campus & Community Partnerships
➢ Ceremony of Excellence (Top 10 Senior)
➢ Graduate/ Professional School emphasis & assistance
  • Honors scholastic and high academic achievers
  • Top Ten Senior- presented with Kente cloth honor sashes
  • 3.2+ GPA Honor student
➢ Academic, Cultural, Social, Spiritual, and Service Projects
➢ Enhanced mini-computer lab, study area, and lounge

The CME is thriving with successful outcomes as student and community visits are continuously on the rise. In the last year (2014-15), we had 1,010 student interventions (sessions/visits) and over 6,700 services.

Director's Message

CME Programs and Services

➢ Peer Mentor Program (50 registered freshmen students are mentored by upper class peers and engaged in weekly sessions and programs)
➢ Scholarship Program
  *CME Activity/Leadership Tuition Waivers help ease the financial burden of school and engage students on campus & community
  *Oportunidad Scholarship Program (helps Dreamers-undocumented and DACA students with an annual scholarship while meeting with CME Retention Specialists for guidance, advise, and retention)
  *Byron Warfield-Graham Scholarship (for active Black Scholars United members who demonstrate a strong commitment to citizen participation in government, civil right, equality of opportunity, community service and the fight for justice.)

Hispanic Heritage Month

Other activities that are still coming up are:

“Hispanic Heritage Activism and Action Workshop” October 6th at 12 pm WSU Shepherd Union Building room 404
“Hispanic Heritage: A Call to Action” with Senator Luz Robles Escamilla October 15th at 10:30 am Shepherd Union Wildcat Theater

Hope that everyone has an enjoyable Hispanic Heritage Month! For more information about this activities please visit www.weber.edu/diversity.

References:
Attending a University can be overwhelming, especially when it comes to the financial burden of paying for tuition, fees, books, and not to mention other miscellaneous costs that may arise. One of the ways to lessen those financial burdens is by getting scholarships. Finding the right scholarship can also be a hassle. Here are a few things that may help you in the process of searching for scholarships.

There are many scholarships that are available to students through the Center for Multicultural Excellence (CME), through different programs at Weber State University (WSU) and even outside of the University. Through the CME there are some requirements that must be met to qualify for the scholarships offered such as being a full-time, ethnic minority student who has a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 and is an active member or a participant of the area councils. The CME also has a scholarship for new first-time freshman that gives the student the opportunity to take part in the Mentor Program. Information for the following scholarships and all of the requirements are available at weber.edu/multicultural/scholarships:

Scholarships:

- Leadership
- Utah Private
- African American
- American Indian
- Asian American
- Hispanic
- Pacific Islander/ Asian
- Others

The list above is only for scholarships that are available through the CME. Additionally WSU has many other scholarships that are offered through different programs on campus. The scholarships that are awarded can depend on different things such as: academic performance, student status, subject of study, financial need, community service and others. For more information and a full list of available scholarships visit weber.edu/FinancialAid/wsudetails

The most important things to remember about on campus scholarships is that first, you must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Second, that you fill out the scholarship application through your Weber portal. Unless these two things are done, you won’t be eligible for any kind of aid including the scholarships. The scholarship application for award year 2016-2017 opened up on September 1st with a priority deadline of January 12 so make sure you file as soon as possible because after the deadline they are first-come first-serve.

Now that you know about some of the scholarships available through the CME and WSU here are some procedures to keep in mind when applying:

1. After your search is complete, organize by their date of priority deadline.
2. Apply for the scholarships in the same way they were organized.
3. Set a smart goal for yourself as to how many you can apply for in a week, or month.
4. Complete one application at a time. Avoid confusing details between different scholarships, and overlooking important requirements.
5. Make application presentable. Take the application to the Writing Center in the Elizabeth Hall so that someone can review the application and give you feedback on changes that may be needed. An advisor from the CME could also be a great person to help review the application.
6. Follow all of the rules for submitting the scholarship.

Important Dates to keep in mind if eligible:

- Somos Foundation Scholarship deadline October 12, 15 (http://somosfoundationutah.org/hispanic-scholarships/)
- Rising Star Scholarship and Walter C. Swanson Scholarship opened September 22, 2015, deadline is February 17, 2016 for academic year 2015-2016 weber.edu/nontrad/Scholarships

WSU Tutoring

Fall semester can be really tough when you are trying to adjust to school after a nice summer vacation. If you need tutoring services, then Weber can help you out. Weber offers a variety of free tutoring and academic support services to students. The subjects vary from foreign languages to lower division math and science. There are many options available to students seeking help. Students can take advantage of the appointment and drop-in tutoring services on campus or e-tutoring options from home. If one-on-one tutoring is not your style, there are Supplemental Instruction (SI) groups offered in over 50 courses. If you’re a commuter and live in Kaysville, there is a tutoring center for you. Kaysville’s center offers tutoring for Math 1050. The Davis campus offers tutoring for multiple math courses including Math 1030, 1050,1060,1080, and 1210. English courses are offered as well. Students who would like to schedule a tutoring appointment can do so at the tutoring center located in the Student Services Center Rm 160. Their office hours are Monday-Friday 7:30am-5:30pm. Students have the option of scheduling appointments up to two times a week free of charge. Who are the tutors? They are Weber State students who have passed their classes with flying colors and have been recommended by their professors. They receive training through a course by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). Another great academic support option offered by Weber is the Writing Center located in Elizabeth Hall Rm 210. If you are writing a paper or an essay and need some help, you can schedule an appointment or drop-in during their office hours and they will be happy to help you. If you don’t have time to drop-in there is an online option. You may upload your paper to their website and you’ll get your paper back within 2-3 days with comments added. They will accept any paper you give them, including papers that aren’t for school. Everyone is welcome, whether you are a freshman, returning for grad school, or an alumnus. Happy studying everybody!
Upcoming Events on Campus

By Gennesis Marroquin | Department Assistant | gennesismarroquin@weber.edu

OPEN HOUSE AND DAY OF THE DEAD

November 2nd, 2015 from 6 - 8 PM
Location: Shepherd Union

MOUNT OGDEN ANNUAL HIKE

Free Hiking Event
Ends at 4 PM
Saturday, October 3rd
Location: Mt. Ogden

HISPANIC HERITAGE ACTIVISM AND ACTION WORKSHOP

Activism and Social Justice
Tuesday, October 6th
Location: Shepherd Union RM. 404

DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

"So You Think You're Blind To Color"
Presented by Dr. Eric Dyson
Examining Oppression
Location: Davis Campus Ballroom
Thursday, October 8th
Location: Ogden Campus, Shepherd Union

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

“HISPANIC HERITAGE:
Senator Luz Robles
Thursday, October 15th
10:30 AM
Location: Shepherd Union Wildcat Theatre

DRAG SHOW ARTS AND PERFORMANCE

Friday, October 16th
3 - 10 PM
Location: Davis Campus D3-151 Ballroom

ANNUAL PHYSICS OPEN HOUSE

Free!
All Ages Welcome
Friday, October 9th
Location: Lind Lecture Hall

YCC Costume Drive

Donate New or Used Costumes for Kids!
Monday, October 12th
All Day
Location: Shepherd Union RM. 327

The Director's Message

As an example of one of these services during the months of July and August, the CME has assisted and guided 73 students in completing their FAFSA. This includes the completion of the WSU Financial Aid application. Last year, the CME had 175 FAFSA interventions. With this emphasis on retention, we are able to focus on FAFSA completions in order to help our students return the following academic year with funding and persist in their educational goals of graduation while attaining University and Division goals. Another effort to support students has been with a renovated Center that includes more computer stations and study areas and new furniture. The CME is now centrally located in the Shepherd Union building in the Center for Diversity and Unity for easier access and outreach to campus. Our Peer Mentor program and Coordinator, Olga Antonio, are housed in SU 232D. Stop by and get involved! As the result of the diligent work of our dynamic staff, we are continuously striving to implement and enhance programming and services that will meet your needs. Connecting you with the guidance and support to be successful at the University is our priority. We look forward to meeting you at both of our locations!

Michiko Nakashima-Lizarazo, Director of the Center for Multicultural Excellence

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