



NEWS ABOUT THE DIVERSITY MOVEMENT AT WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

Fall 2009 vol. 8 no. 1



Weber State University is known for hosting a variety of enrichment programs, service-oriented opportunities, educational seminars and outreach initiatives. Following in that

tradition, the Diversity Conference gives faculty, staff, students and community members opportunities to come together to explore issues, challenges and concerns that shape us and give us insight on how to better interact with our larger society.

During the 11th Annual Diversity Conference, scheduled for Oct. 8-10, we will study the significant impact the economy has had on us, particularly in recent years.

From bank closings to bankruptcy, unemployment to tuition increases, clearly the economic downturn has touched us all in varying ways. A critical question raised, which forged the impetus for this conference, was what kind of impact has this had on diverse communities, under-served populations, students and the working poor? How have those at the margins fared through this challenge?

Members of the Diversity Conference planning committee invite you to join us as we organize panel sessions to explore these and other ideas. To help frame some of these concerns, we have invited Henry Cisneros, former secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), to open with our morning keynote address. For our closing address, we have teamed up with the Worldwide Organization for Women (WOW) to feature Carol Ugochukwu, executive director of WOW-Africa.

I think you will enjoy this year's program, so mark your calendar for Oct. 8-10 as WSU's Diversity Initiative and the Worldwide Organization for Women presents "Exploring Diversity During Economic Crisis."

Forrest Crawford, assistant to the president for diversity

diversity! WORKS!

Preparing for the Future Economy

Former HUD Secretary to Keynote Diversity Conference



Former U.S. Secretary for Housing and Urban Development, Henry Cisneros, believes the United States is at a critical juncture.

"We're living through a period of great change, and one of the biggest changes is in the population demographic," he said.

"The growth of ethnic minorities and the aging of traditional populations have a very real impact on our economy and jobs."

Cisneros says that while countries in Europe face a declining population, the United States will benefit from an increased number of immigrants and ethnic minorities. "We are going to grow, but we are going to grow in a different way," he said. "We are going to grow with people who are different than those traditionally seen in our population, and it becomes heavily incumbent on us to invest in education."

Cisneros will present his thoughts on the changing population and the importance of diversity to the economy as the keynote speaker for **Weber State University's 11th Annual Diversity Conference** on Oct. 9 at 8:30 a.m. in the Shepherd Union Ballroom.

The theme for this year's conference focuses on the economy and diversity, and Cisneros has experience with both.

In 1981, Cisneros was elected mayor of San Antonio, becoming the first Hispanic-American to run a large U.S. city. He served four terms before joining former President Bill Clinton's cabinet in 1993 as the country's HUD secretary. His résumé also includes stints as the president of Univision, the fifth largest television network in America, and

the founder of CityView, a firm that builds urban homes for working-class families.

During his presentation, Cisneros will discuss ways the country must change to remain economically competitive in the future. "We need to boost the quality of education and focus on grades K through 16," he said. "We have to integrate immigrants into our society as a matter of policy."

Cisneros believes businesses benefit from diversity. "As a practical matter, in business, it's important to focus on diversity because businesses cannot be successful if they don't understand markets," he said. "There are a lot of reasons why this is not just something you do out of good will."

According to Cisneros, progressive policies adopted by the United States in the 1950s paved the way for citizens to gain an education, find quality employment, purchase homes and ascend to the middle class. He believes similar measures are essential to making a middle-class lifestyle attainable for more ethnic minorities today.

"We have to prepare for a different kind of world," he said. "That means a heavy emphasis on education, human capital investment, self-improvement, all the things that would make it possible for more people to take positions in the labor force in a very new economy."

If the country does not make that commitment, however, Cisneros feels the consequences could lead to dire economic times in the future.

"This is now fundamental to the workings of our economy and fundamental to the future of the country," he said. "We don't have a prayer in competing with China or India over the next 50 years if we don't specifically bring all of our people along. We just have too many minorities in our population to leave them behind and carry them as a burden on the rest of society."

Cisneros also believes minorities need to make sure they take advantage of opportunities afforded them. "This is not something that can be done for you," he said. "It's something that people have to accept responsibility for, chart their own destiny and aggressively seek to improve themselves."

"Though society, for its part, needs to keep the doors of opportunity open."

Travis Clemens, University Communications



Oct. 8-10, 2009

WSU's 11th Annual Diversity Conference

Exploring Diversity During Economic Crisis

Thursday, Oct. 8

Hurst Center for Lifelong Learning
6-8 p.m. Opening Reception and Address

Friday, Oct. 9

Shepherd Union Building
8:30 a.m. Keynote Address: Henry Cisneros
9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m.: Concurrent Panel Sessions

Topics include:

- Ethnicity & the Economy
- Social Security
- Health Care Policy Reform
- Sustainable Business Ethics

12:30 p.m. Closing Keynote Address: Carol Ugochukwu
1:15 p.m. Closing Reception

Saturday, Oct. 10

Worldwide Organization of Women (WOW) Conference
Shepherd Union Building, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
WOW conference fees range from \$15 to \$40.



WEB ADDRESSES

The Center for Diversity & Unity:
weber.edu/StudentInvolvement/diversity.html

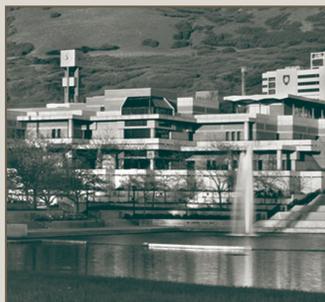
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Send submissions and comments to mailcode 4025; e-mail travisclemens@weber.edu, or call ext. 7948.

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Closing Keynote to Focus on Women's Economic Issues

Carol Ugochukwu, executive director of the Africa branch of the Worldwide Organization for Women (WOW), will be the Diversity Conference's closing keynote speaker on Oct. 9 at 12:30 p.m. in the Shepherd Union Building.

Born in Nigeria, Ugochukwu has served as state president and vice president of the National Council of Women Societies of Nigeria, an organization committed to the advancement of women and children. She also has been active in providing after-school and job-training programs for inner-city kids in California, for which she has received the City of Los Angeles Community Service Award.

Ugochukwu's group, WOW-Africa, is a non-profit organization that encourages community and self-development projects, including microcredit loans to encourage entrepreneurship, medical outreach and education.

"Bringing her to speak is important for the background she brings to us with her international experience," said Forrest Crawford, assistant to the president for diversity. "She has been able to confront and work with women-in-poverty issues throughout the world. Her microloan project and her overall poverty initiatives really speak to the spirit of what we are trying to accomplish as part of our diversity theme this year."

In conjunction with the Diversity Conference, WSU will host the "Women and their Worldwide Influence for Peace Conference" on Oct. 10 in the Shepherd Union Building. The daylong WOW conference will include workshops and speakers discussing topics such as education, home life and women's security from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Conference fees range from \$15 to \$40. Everyone is invited.

Gentry Reinhart, *University Communications*

Diversity Presentations

Hosted by the Center for Diversity & Unity

Tuesday (Oct. 13): "The Impact of Hate Crime,"
12:30 p.m., Shepherd Union Room 232, free, 801-626-7243.

Tuesday (Oct. 20): "How to Be an Ally,"
12:30 p.m., Shepherd Union Room 232, free, 801-626-7243.

Tuesday (Oct. 27): "The Attraction of Hate,"
12:30 p.m., Shepherd Union Room 232, free, 801-626-7243.

Tuesday (Nov. 3): "Preventing Hate Crimes & Hate Incidents,"
12:30 p.m., Shepherd Union Room 232, free, 801-626-7243.

Tuesday (Nov. 10): "Pyramid of Hate,"
12:30 p.m., Shepherd Union Room 232, free, 801-626-7243.