Dear SUNY Potsdam Community,

Below please find a list of DIAC’s current projects. Also, DIAC (Diversity in Action Coalition) will hold a TOWN HALL MEETING to inform the campus community of our current projects. Please join us on Tuesday, December 1 at 6pm in Barrington Union MPR

New members are welcome to apply for DIAC subcommittees. We plan an application on our website very soon. Meanwhile, please email diac@potsdam.edu. Website is www.potsdam.edu/diac; DIAC Members page lists subcommittees.

DIAC steering committee members are Latesha Fussell, chair; Libbie Freed, Amanda Grazioso, Jennifer Mitchell, Jay Pecora, Oscar Sarmiento, Lonel Woods. Nonvoting members are Louise Tyo (interim director of CFD) and Susan Stebbins (Affirmative Action). Some steering committee projects include:

- See DIAC’s response to a newspaper opinion piece blaming students of color from NYC for problems in the North Country. [http://www.potsdam.edu/about/diversity_updates](http://www.potsdam.edu/about/diversity_updates)
- Reports of DIAC Campus Climate Survey (with Lonel Woods and Libbie Freed) and Focus Groups (with Sheryl Scales) are underway. In spring, DIAC will be available to discuss results with depts./units.
- Teaching Tolerance and Understanding series of presentations by faculty/staff, in collaboration with CCI. Video recordings available on CCI website [http://www.potsdam.edu/faculty/CCI/events](http://www.potsdam.edu/faculty/CCI/events)
  - Fall series:
    - Inclusivity in the Classroom: The Psychology of Stereotypes, Jim Fryer
    - A Conversation with Students with Disabilities, Sharon House, Anjali Misra, and Pamela Anderson
    - How to Respond when Race Becomes the Issue, Shaili Singh and Gena Nelson (Dec. 1 at noon in Crumb 204)
  - Spring series is being planned.
- Racquette student newspaper: collaborating with DIAC beat reporter to create a regular page on diversity including a section by students called “Stories of Consciousness” to represent their experience through poems, artwork, and other expression.
- Tesfa Alexander, African-American alumnus, health communicator, and photographer, will be visiting and exhibiting during LOKO ’16. See his powerful work on black men at [http://iamphotoproject.com/](http://iamphotoproject.com/)
- Planning monthly discussions in spring for students and faculty.
- Sponsoring four Community Health interns (two now and two in spring) who are creating useful resources examining health issues relating to diversity.

Student representatives are sought for Steering committee and subcommittees.

**Community Outreach Subcommittee** – Jay Pecora chair, with Shaili Singh, Susan Stebbins, Carol Franck, and Tom Nesbitt

- Polling student organizations regarding local businesses that are student friendly.
- Looking into volunteering opportunities for our students, experiences that could get them into the community.
- Gathering info on where students spend their BEAR money.
- Collaborating with Linda Dashnaw of campus childcare center, who is preparing for Family Night spring event.
- Gathering ideas from students for new CLEAR workshops on campus.

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Diversity Programming and Student Training Subcommittee -- Oscar Sarmiento chair, with Ruth Policella, TK Huff, Joel Brown, Ruth Policella, Bill Mitchell, Bethany Parker, and Matt LaVine
- Announcing relevant events via DIAC’s SOGO calendar, which displays at Potsdam.edu/diac
- Seeking to promote and to coordinate existing events and programs.
- Ruth Policella of Campus Life is on the subcommittee and developing training for student leaders through Campus Life.

Professional Development and Curriculum Subcommittee -- Libbie Freed & Lonel Woods co-chair, with Jan Trybula, Liliana Trevizan, Chanel Cook, and Sharon House (Susan Godreau?)
- Working to develop a clear charge, a succinct statement to guide committee’s purpose and avoid duplication of effort.
- Planning a preliminary review of catalogue and program/office websites to identify courses and opportunities relating to diversity. Consider how well that diversity is conveyed to students and offer suggestions for communicating existing courses/opportunities more effectively.
- Planning, with CCI and Interim Provost, a professional development day in April 2016

- Planning a town hall-style meeting for December.
- Revised and now doing final edits on a brochure defining hate crimes and reporting.
- Developing a centralized reporting form for any instance of bias in order to collect information about climate. (Separate from UP’s current anonymous reporting form.) Consulting with other campuses about their forms.
- Drafting a website regarding bias-related incidents; currently studying SUNY Oneontas page and inquiring how well it’s working for them.
- Meeting with Annette Robbins of Student Conduct, Susan Stebbins of Affirmative Action, and others.
- Taking on coordination and training of Bias Response Team
- Longterm goal is a fuller bias response team, including peer educators, peer responders, peer counselors, etc.

Communications Specialist – Jennifer Mitchell
- DIAC wrote and published a response to “College Student Crime” piece in Sound Off of North Country This Week. Our response was published Oct. 13. Complete list of relevant links available from J. Mitchell.
- DIAC web page can now be found at both Potsdam.edu/diversity or Potsdam.edu/diac
- Created diac@potsdam.edu and Helios space for DIAC committees.
- Working on reports of DIAC Campus Climate Survey (with Lonel Woods and Libbie Freed) and Focus Groups (with Sheryl Scales). PLEASE WATCH for these important reports soon.
- Create a monthly update. Inform students, faculty, and staff what DIAC is and how to interact with us.