



Carnaval (September)



Alternative Spring Break – Selma, AL (March)



La Raza Graduation Ceremony (April)

Multicultural Center

The Multicultural Center remains committed to cultivating a campus environment where people of all identities and experiences can thrive. It fosters the success and awareness of historically underrepresented student populations with an emphasis on disability, race/ethnicity, gender, interfaith, and sexual orientation. The Center's programs and activities are developed to increase the awareness, understanding, and intersectionality of the various identities in the UNT community through campus education, engagement, and student success resources.

Programs and Initiatives

The Multicultural Center provided various cultural engagement, awareness, and leadership opportunities over the 2015 – 16 academic year that include but are not limited to:

A Few Good Men (January – April): This is a men of color mentoring initiative established in the spring semester to support African American students. The program connects UNT alumni and students monthly to build personal and professional skills. More than 40 students participated in the program throughout the course of the semester.

Alternative Spring Break – Selma, AL (March): In partnership with the Center for Leadership and Service, the Multicultural Center took 9 students on a service trip focused on civil rights education and community engagement during spring break. Through interactions with individuals, groups, service projects, and civil rights museums, students on the trip learned about the continued impact systemic oppression has on society.

People of Nia Celebration (April): The Multicultural Center collaborates with numerous departments, in addition to cultural and ethnic student groups, to coordinate culturally-based graduation celebration ceremonies that complement the University's commencement celebrations. These cultural celebrations acknowledge the value and uniqueness of underrepresented student experiences and serves to commemorate and highlight the accomplishments of individuals within their familial and cultural context. This year's People of Nia Celebration was canceled due to severe weather but over 100 stoles were given to graduating seniors.

La Raza Graduation Ceremony (April): Like the People of Nia Celebration, the La Raza graduation ceremony includes various Latino cultural elements and graduates are given the opportunity to publicly thank individuals who have helped them throughout their educational career. A Raza Graduation gives an opportunity for friends and family to join students in celebrating their success at navigating the challenges of college in the spirit of Latino culture. This program works closely with the Hispanic/Latinx faculty group 'UNeTe' to plan and coordinate the day which impacted a total of 65 students and over 200 participants.

Buddy System Peer Mentoring Program (August – May): The Buddy System connects new students to the University of North Texas by matching them with experienced upperclassmen as their mentors. The Buddy System assists participants with the A to Z of UNT by focusing on 6 core elements: Academics, Community Service, Cultural Awareness, Leadership, Socialization,

and Career Development. It helps build community, promotes student involvement, and encourages successful development through their academic, social, and personal achievements. All mentors are encouraged to attend Access Mentoring training held multiple times throughout the Fall Semester and twice throughout the spring semester. The self-reported demographics of the mentees were 13 African American, 1 Indian American, 7 Asian American, 29 Hispanic, and 13 Caucasian/White. The mean grade point average for the fall 2015 semester was 3.05 and the mean grade point average for the spring 2016 semester was 3.18. Students represented 10 colleges across campus.

Black Student Experience (September): The 6th annual BSE drew the most participants to date with over 135 students impacted. BSE serves incoming freshman and transfer students over this two-day event by promoting academic success, embracing cultural identity, enhancing leadership skills, and establishing mentoring relationships. Black staff, faculty, and alumni are invited to speak and engage with the students throughout the weekend.

Carnaval (September): Carnaval is an annual event co-sponsored with the University Program Council. This program serves as the kick-off event to Hispanic Heritage Month programs and allows the UNT community to celebrate all Spanish speaking countries while experiencing culturally unique food and music. More than 1,000 students attended the two-hour event.

Community Engagement

MLK Celebration Remembrance March (January): This is an annual and celebratory march from UNT to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreational Center followed by an opportunity to participate in the City of Denton's annual program featuring a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., to share the biography of Dr. King.

City of Denton - Cinco De Mayo Celebration (May) and Juneteenth Celebration (June): The Multicultural Center participates in these annual city of Denton celebrations by hosting a booth and providing resources about UNT to the Denton community.

La Vida Denton (October): La Vida Denton is an annual event designed to promote student engagement between the North Central Texas College, the University of North Texas, and Texas Woman's University Hispanic/Latinx students and community and business leaders. This is achieved by creating opportunities for professional development such as internships, prospective employment, and mentoring as well as creating cultural and social awareness that the city of Denton provides.

Unit Collaboration

The Multicultural Center and Pride Alliance collaborated on multiple successful initiatives over the past academic year, including:

- **Multicultural Center/Pride Alliance Programming Needs Assessment (May):** Both units worked closely to design, develop, and deliver a needs assessment to the UNT community which surveyed students, faculty, and staff. The data received from the survey will inform FY 16-17 programming and direct new initiatives.
- **Denton to Orlando-Candlelight Vigil (June):** The Pride Alliance, Multicultural Center, and the Office of Spiritual Life collaborated to create a candlelight vigil in response to the shootings at Pulse night club in Orlando, Florida. The candlelight vigil gathered more than 350 campus and community members together to heal. The vigil was comprised of speakers from the three host offices, Counseling and Testing, UNT Police Department, UNT International, OUTReach Denton, and a statement was made on behalf of the Council of Muslim-American Relations. The vigil closed with a venue for students to express their feelings about the tragedy.

