

Celebrating Diversity | Building Inclusion

Division of Institutional Equity & Diversity
 University of North Texas
 1155 Union Circle #310937
 Denton, Texas 76203

The Division of Institutional Equity and Diversity partners with the UNT Faculty and Staff and the entire campus community to create an inclusive environment that prepares and promotes UNT student success in a global marketplace. At UNT, all members of our community value, support, and respect each other and the educational benefits of diversity.

Find us on Facebook
 UNT Equity & Diversity

Multicultural Center
 Calendar of Events

March

- 28 — Fem Flicks 'In the Name of Love', 4 pm, Media Library (Chilton Hall)
- 27 — Tea on Tuesday, Noon, GES
- 30 — Basic Ally Training, Union rm.411, 1 pm — 4:30 pm

April

- 4 — Dinner Diversity Interfaith Dialogue
- 9 — Clothesline Project, 10 am—2pm, Union Courtyard
- 10 — Movie Screening "Vincent Who?" 12pm & 2pm, Multicultural Center
- 13 — Advanced Ally Training, 8:30 am —12:30 pm, Golden Eagle Suite. To register email multicultural@unt.edu
- 16 — Celebrating Great Global citizens, 7pm Apogee Stadium
- 25 — Fem Flicks "The Line", 4pm, Media library (Chilton Hall)

Fem-Flicks

Fem Flicks is a FREE film series spotlighting women's issues. Each screening is followed by a brief discussion. Fem Flicks is presented by the Multicultural Center, the Media Library, and Women's Studies Program.

All films will be shown in the Media Library (Chilton Hall) at 4pm unless otherwise noted. Popcorn is provided.



Diversity Matters

Division of Institutional Equity & Diversity

Jaime Blanton
 Wins National Award



Jaime Blanton is the Coordinator for Parent Programs in the department of Orientation and Transition programs. Blanton won the award for New professional of the year by the American College Personnel Association (ACPA). ACPA is a national Student Affairs organization.

Jaime began working at UNT in 2009 in Parent and Family related programs, which serve parent orientation and family weekend, and does community fundraising to support these programs. "I think its important for other people with disabilities to see me in this role. There are very few professionals with full time physical disabilities that work in a professional environment, few that get a masters degree, even fewer in the United States that have a terminal degree I don't let any limitations I have, whether they are real or perceived by others, stop me from good customer service."

Blanton continuously searches for ways to have a more inclusive family orientation experience for. With the department has translated all parent and family orientation materials into Spanish. "Our entire parent handbook, which is full of resourceful information, we have translated into Spanish. I think it is a step in the right direction, we are really committed to finding additional ways to reach out."

Blanton has created webinars and other materials in order to help parents transition with their student during their time at UNT. She covers topics that parents and students may have a difficult time discussing. "If your student is exploring a difficult spiritual path, if they want to talk to their parents about their sexual orientation, family members often have no idea to have those conversations."

Blanton will be recognized at this years ACPA conference in Louisville Kentucky.

WORLD ECHOES: A student organization promoting international exchange and cultural exploration

World Echoes is a student lead organization, representative of over 40 countries here at UNT. The current president of World Echoes, Mallory Schier, explained more about the organization, and its importance on UNT's campus.

Why is it important for students to get involved with organizations that promote diversity and inclusion?

"Misunderstanding other people and other countries is really a big problem in society today - and World Echoes aims to change that through many different approaches. In all our events, participants have the opportunity to interact with UNT students from all over the world. Such opportunities allow everyone to learn about the importance of human interaction, and of respect and understanding."

(World Echoes continued pg. 4)

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Special points of interest:

- Jaime Blanton
- World Echoes

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Meet Our Staff

Kellen Hill
Student Services Coordinator – Peer Mentor Program

Multicultural Center

Years of Service: 1.5 years

Hobbies: I enjoy cooking, writing, and participating and watching sports

Why is E & D important? “E&D is important because the world is filled with diversity. No matter how we try to skew things, we will always live in a diverse society and everyone deserves a chance to be an important part of the world in which we live.”



Tami Patterson

Equal Opportunity Representative

Equity and Diversity

Years of Service: 11 years

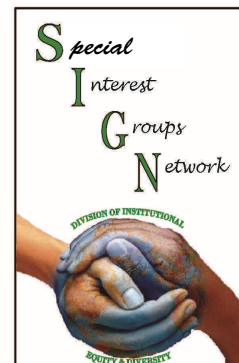
Hobbies: “My husband and I enjoy RVing and camping”

Why is equal opportunity important? The reason my job is important to the university is because I feel like it makes a difference in the overall culture of the university. When I spend so much of my time working towards and trying to help departments diversify their faculty, by hiring a more diverse faculty that has implications throughout the culture of the university and the more diverse the faculty is the better our environment is, and the better the learning experience for our students”



SIGN Groups

The Division of Equity and Diversity has established several Special Interest Group Networks (SIGN) to help member of the UNT community – students, faculty, staff, and alumni – have a voice on matters of diversity and inclusion. SIGN Groups are known to create networking and professional development opportunities for the university’s faculty and staff. They are also known to assist faculty and staff in being valuable resources to students both inside and outside of the classroom. SIGNs have been created according to university role, race/ethnicity, gender identity and orientation, disability, and religious affiliation categories. The Groups meet throughout the calendar year, and they partner with other campus and community groups to broaden their impact. SIGNs have varied focuses, however they do share one common goal, which is to promote diversity and inclusion at UNT.



For more information please contact Cara Walker at: 940.565.3424

UNT Multicultural Center, University Union, Second Level, Suite #218

A Letter from Dr. Uyen Tran-Parsons Director of Multicultural Programming

My feelings as a stepmother are not that different from what I feel for our students here at UNT. While this letter was written with my children in mind, it is exactly what I say to students who feel lost or confused.



I’m so proud of you for taking on the challenge of getting a college degree. You earned your place at the university. Take advantage of this great blessing in your life. While I cannot be with you every day, I hope you will consider these few pieces of advice during your journey.

It’s okay to change your mind. There is a great deal of pressure to choose a major and graduate on time, but at 18 it is difficult to decide what you will do for the rest of your life. Really examine your interests, take a variety of classes in the beginning, and start eliminating those areas that don’t excite you. There are probably classes out there you didn’t even know existed – like scuba diving! When it is time to firmly make that decision, choose the career path that lights a fire inside of you. It is okay if others don’t understand your choice ...you are the one who will have to go to that job every day.

Know when to ask for help. There are hundreds of people on campus paid to help you. When you are frustrated because you studied for weeks and still failed a test, talk to your teacher immediately to examine what you could have done differently. When you are hungry and have no money to buy food, please go to the Multicultural Center because they think of you like family. When you are stressed out, go to the Rec Center, meet new people, and unload via basketball.

Be 100% responsible for yourself. No more parents, teachers, grandparents, or siblings around to help you remember what you need to do for the day. Deadlines are no joke. Laundry doesn’t wash itself. Attendance does matter. Learn to manage your money and your time. Do not dwell on your mistakes. Instead learn from those mistakes and take action to change the future.

Take risks. The person you were in high school will soon become a distant memory. This is your opportunity to become the person you always wanted to be. Challenge yourself to do amazing, scary, heart pounding things. There’s so much you don’t realize you don’t know – take every opportunity to learn and grow!!

Brotherhood is important. Surround yourself with friends and build a new home away from home. I hope you will meet new people from all over the world. Push them and yourself to be excellent **every day**. As you mature, take new students under your wing and help them through their transition to college. You are bright and charismatic. Please share your gifts to help others.

There will always be someone around to support you, love you, and encourage you whether it’s at home or at school. Every resource is at your fingertips to help you get to graduation. All you have to do is take the leap.

Love,
Your other Mom

Dr. Uyen Tran-Parsons is the Director of Multicultural Programming and has worked for the Multicultural Center for six years. Her research interests are in student retention, race relations, and academic advising. When away from UNT, she is the partner of an artist and “other mother” of two teenage stepsons.



The Clothesline Project

The Clothesline Project honors women survivors as well as victims of intimate violence. Participating in this project provides a powerful step towards helping survivors break the silence that has surrounded their experience. Each color shirt represents a different type of violence. Help begin a conversation about sexual abuse by decorating a t-shirt and hanging it on the line. Come show your support on Monday, April 9, from 10am—2pm in the Union Courtyard.



WORLD ECHOES: (continued)

“Our events also feature tidbits about members' many different countries (whether that be ethnic dining, country presentations, participating in international festivals, or simply working together with diverse people in team building activities), which allows for students to learn more about how other people see the world. Everyone can benefit from this, because once you begin to learn how other people think without making mere assumptions, you can accomplish so much in your relationships, workplace, and other places where social interactions have an impact on your life.”

Why is diversity important?

“Our members come from more than 40 countries, including the USA (40%), Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, Brazil, Egypt, Ghana, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, China, Taiwan, Japan, Mongolia, South Korea, Germany, Romania, Ukraine, Serbia, Turkey and many more. This makes World Echoes the most diverse student organization on campus. I would have to say that diversity has allowed all of us to grow in our understanding of one another, and that it is an invaluable attribute of our organization. The vast majority of our activities are geared towards promoting cultural awareness and building a more inclusive campus community, and we have found great fulfillment in doing so!”

What is one thing you want students to know about your organization?

“World Echoes is about friendship, most of all. If you are only looking for a great time, there are plenty of opportunities on campus; but if you are looking for a group of accepting, diverse individuals who are inclusive of other people no matter what their backgrounds are, World Echoes is home. And, of course, the events at World Echoes are also really fun — having input from members who come from 40 different countries can bring plenty of exciting twists to any event! World Echoes is also very beneficial for those who are interested in making friends and networking with people from all over the world.”

Diversity CHAMPIONS

Student: Gecolby Youngblood

Major: Masters in Higher Education

Graduate Assistant: Graduate Advisor for the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)

Why is inclusion important to NPHC? “I think its important for NPHC to incorporate diversity because NPHC organizations were founded during a time when, socially, they were not accepted. Historically NPHC organizations have never turned anyone away because of their race and ethnicity. One example of diversification amongst NPHC is gender based. The council is made up of both male and female Greek letter organizations.”



Student: Aldo Alfaro

Major: Entrepreneurship

Diversity Trainer for the Multicultural Center

Why is Cultural Awareness and Exchange important?

Cultural awareness is important because it helps us better understand our environment, and when we also experience cultural exchange we are able to explore new perspectives and opinions that help us solve current problems while expanding our horizons as global citizens.



Staff: Dr. Joshua Adams
Director, Student Learning

How do you help promote diversity at the learning center?

“I think diversity goes beyond just race and ethnicity, so it is important to me that all staff have the opportunity to attend as many trainings and personal development sessions as possible. In addition to just having respect for other opinions and perspectives on life, we often get various discussions on the topic of diversity. This is appropriate because often time students are in the Learning Center studying for a political science course or history course, and sensitive subjects come up in those courses, so we will work through that with students. Valuing everybody’s opinion is important, but being willing to stand up for what you believe and being able to articulate that in an educated reasoned manner, and hopefully the learning center is a space for that for those conversations to occur. It is important to me that the Learning Center staff reflect our student body, whether that is racial diversity, cultural diversity, sexual orientation, sexual identity, etc., that every student on UNT’s campus should ideally be able to walk into the Learning Center and see somebody that looks like them, or that acts like them, so that they can feel comfortable. Its important to me because so many groups have been disenfranchised historically. So being able to see someone that is like you instantly puts you at ease. The goal of the learning center is to get all of the issues out of the way so we can focus on academics, so we can do that simply by having diverse staff.”

