

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

February

- 25 — Omega Psi Phi Presents: Talent Hunt, 12:30 pm Music Hall
- 26 — March 3 — National Eating Disorder Awareness Week
- 28 — Black Alumni Night @ Basketball game, 7pm, UNT Coliseum
- 29 — Fem Flicks “Arresting Anna” 4pm, Media Library (Chilton Hall)

March

- 3 — last day of National Eating Disorder Awareness Week
- 7 — Food Chain, 12 pm — 1:30 pm, Golden Eagle Suite. Bring your lunch!
- 8 — Buddy System Game Night, 6:30 pm — 8:30 pm, Multicultural Center
- 13 — Etiquette Training, 7pm, Golden Eagle Suit. To register, call 940.565.3424 or visit the Multicultural Center, Union 218

Buddy System: Find a Buddy, Be a Buddy

The Buddy System Peer Mentoring Program connects first-year UNT students with UNT upperclassmen. All participating students attend a fun training and mixer event at the beginning of the semester to begin the program and are additionally encouraged to attend five leadership and educational enhancement programs throughout the semester. This program is fun, easy, and has proven beneficial results for all that participate! It's a great opportunity to help someone make have an easier transition at UNT and meet new people.

To Apply:

[www.orgsync.com](http://www.orgsync.com). Request to join BUDDY SYSTEM PEER MENTORING (password MCBuddy)

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

For more information please contact Kellen Hill at: 940.565.3424



Diversity Matters

Division of Institutional Equity & Diversity

Dan Savage and John Legend Headline Diversity Conference

The 12th annual Equity and Diversity conference, was held on February 7.

This year's theme was *The Power of Peace is the Harmony of Inclusion*. The conference was co-sponsored by the Multicultural Center and the Division of Equity and Diversity.



Nationally known author and speaker Dan Savage, spoke to attendees on the importance of inclusivity specifically for the LGBT community.

Sharing his own story of the difficulties of being a gay man, and how his *It Gets Better* video project on YouTube, has given hope to thousands of young people.

The *It Gets Better* project has received international support. “It’s about saving lives,” said Savage.

Savage had a more intimate conversation with UNT students in his session *A Conversation with Dan Savage*, approximately 60 students participated in the Q&A styled session.

Along with the Distinguished Lecture Series, the conference welcomed singer, songwriter, producer, and philanthropist John Legend. Legend spoke to 5,000 plus student at the Coliseum.

The 9 time Grammy award winning performer discussed the importance of education, and encouraged UNT students to use their talents to impact the world.

Legend, who was named Time Magazine's 100 most influential people, founded the Show Me Campaign, a nonprofit organization that fights poverty locally and globally.



He urged students to apply for programs like Teach for America, that bring some of the brightest minds to underserved schools.

Legend took questions from the audience, and sang seven songs from various albums. He ended the night with his popular song ‘Ordinary People’.

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Special points of interest:

- Diversity Conference
- National Girls & Women's Day in Sports

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Tamika Catchings Celebrates National Girls & Women's Day in Sports at UNT

This year marks the 40th anniversary for Title IX. This year's theme is 'In it for the Long Run'.

To celebrate, WNBA player, Tamika Catchings, forward for the Indiana Fever, spoke to UNT students on February 1 about goal setting and overcoming obstacles. The event was sponsored by the Athletics department, UPC, Student Activities, Student Government Association, and the Multicultural Center.

Catchings was born with a hearing and speech impairment, but refused to allow these disabilities to hinder her from achieving her goals.

She credits her parents, her faith, and her former coach Pat Summit, for pushing her to be a better person on and off the court.



# Meet Our Staff

**Valerie Green**  
Equal Opportunity Specialist  
Equal Opportunity

**Years of Service:** 23 years

**Hobby:** I have been crocheting for years; it is a relaxing hobby.

**Why is E & D important?**

This department and the role that I serve assists everyone, faculty, staff and students, adding to the breath and depth of diversity on this campus.



**Christi Hestand**

Equity and Diversity  
Executive Assistant for Dr. Gilda Garcia

**Years of Service:** 2 years

**Hobbies:** My hobbies include three very special activities in my life. (My) 17 year-old daughter, my 4 year old son, and my youngest son, who turned 2 last September. My days and nights are filled with boisterous entertainment, sippy cups, goldfish snacks, graduation plans, games on the Wii and more love than a mother deserves.

**Why is E&D important?** (To) maintain and promote the well-being of ALL cultures, interests and perspectives. Everyone deserves a seat at the table and we are here to make that happen.



**Carmen Heisner**  
Administrative Specialist

Equal Opportunity

**Years of Service:** 3 years

**Hobbies:**

I like watching good movies and doing elliptical exercises every day.

**Why is E&D important?**

The Institution of Equity and Diversity creates a unique blend of identities. It creates an environment that is flexible to allow different perspectives.



## Diversity Really Matters!

As the Director of the Multicultural Center, I have the opportunity to work with a number of people from different walks of life. Some of these people include an African Master Drummer, the 1st Latina car dealership owner, the Chief of the Cherokee Nation, some young Asian filmmakers, a Gay rights activists, and the 1st female African American Bishop of an Episcopal church to name a few. Spending time in dialogue with these individuals either challenged my perspective or changed my life. One thing I know is that I thought similarity was the most important thing; however, I realize that it is the appreciation for the differences that is important to diversity.

I believe that we must use the similarities to begin the conversation and make a connection, but use the difference to build inclusion. One paraphrased Native American Proverb says, "Someone made a circle to keep me out, so I made a larger circle to I include us all". The challenge is ours, we should live each day remembering the past and working diligently so that everyone has an invitation of inclusion.

In conclusion, February is Black History Month and it presents an opportunity for us to learn about the contributions of Africans and African Americans to society. So, take a moment to celebrate diversity and build inclusion.

Remember, diversity is everyone's responsibility.

~Cheylon Brown



# Diversity CHAMPIONS

**FACULTY:** Dr. Neilesh Bose

History Professor & Faculty-in-Residence

**How do you promote diversity in the classroom and Honors Hall?**



"My area of research is in Modern Southeast Asia, I expose my classes to my areas of research. I put on programs that emphasize cultural diversity, like Eid."

Eid is an important Muslim religious holiday. It means the Festival of Sacrifice, and is celebrated yearly.

"I expose students to things and people they might not have thought about." Dr. Bose also hosts conferences, that peak student interest and invite conversation on international topics. Recently he hosted the "Things like that, I think, are important."

**STUDENT:** Kelsey Fryman

Major: History

**Why are you involved in cultivating diversity and inclusion?**

"I feel there is a level of responsibility to helping other people. I am involved in the International Socialist Organization (ISO), The Campaign To End The Death Penalty, and Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, the goal of these organizations is to change the world. I am involved because I see so many problems in society. There are so many problems; the entire system is corrupt. Working with the ISO connects me with people on a global scale. I have been contacted by people from all over the world. Someone in Egypt could get my information and they could find out about a demonstration happening in Dallas."



**STAFF:** Lisa Campbell

Director, Center for Student Affairs at Discovery Park

**How do you help promote diversity and inclusion at Discovery Park?**



"In terms of looking at all forms of diversity of being at Discovery Park you've got the College of Engineering, which is predominantly male; has an extremely high number of international students. So in a lot of ways, one of the minority audiences for me are women, and they get categorized and challenged in different ways. Our international population here, who, I think across the campus has completely different challenges, they're here on the breaks, their here doing their research or looking for opportunities to engage in different ways and I feel a sense of responsibility to them in a different way. So one little thing that I did, I found this poster, its on the wall that says welcome in 48 different languages, I just fell in love with this and I wanted it to have a sense so when you came in there was a little bit of connection to home. Students see the poster, and they love to show me which is their language or sometimes I'll get a mini lesson on something that is very unique to their language. You see them light up that there is this recognition and they want to tell you about their specific piece of their culture within their country."